

# China

T O U R I S M

NOVEMBER 1995

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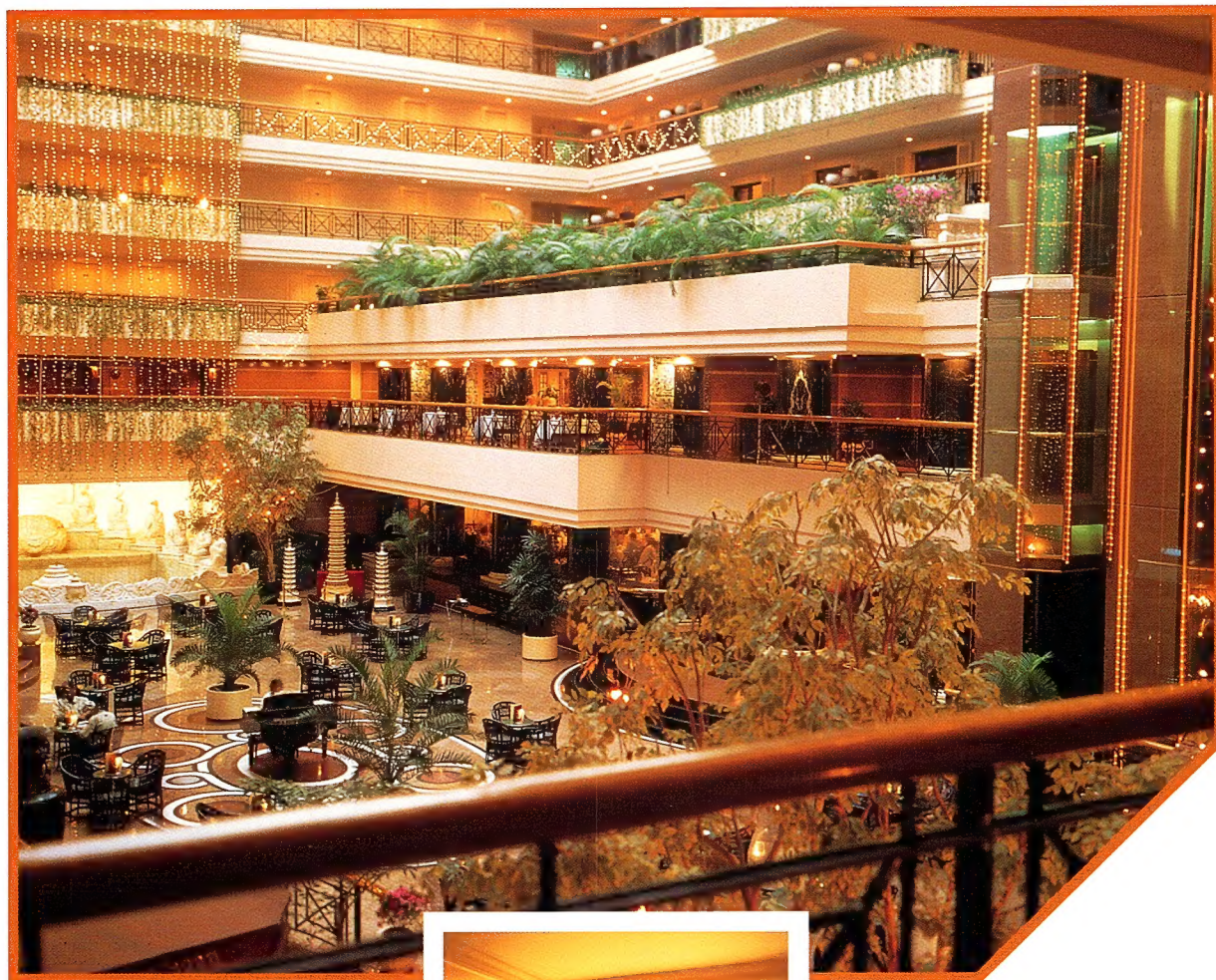
## THE GREAT YELLOW WATERFALLS

The Quiet and Picturesque Tiantai Mountain  
Pudong — A Rising Star  
Sacred Centre of the Jonong Sect of Tibetan Buddhism



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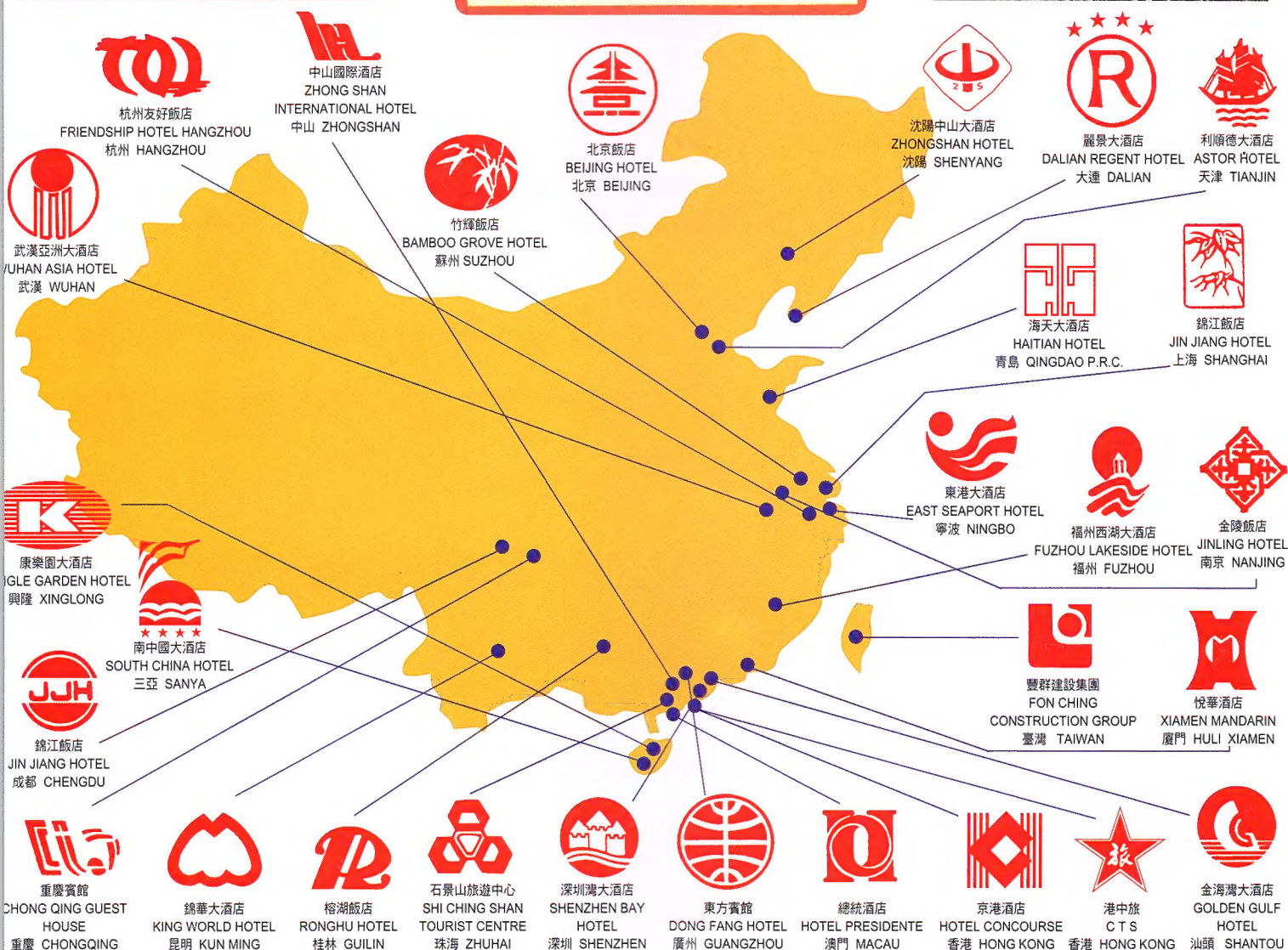
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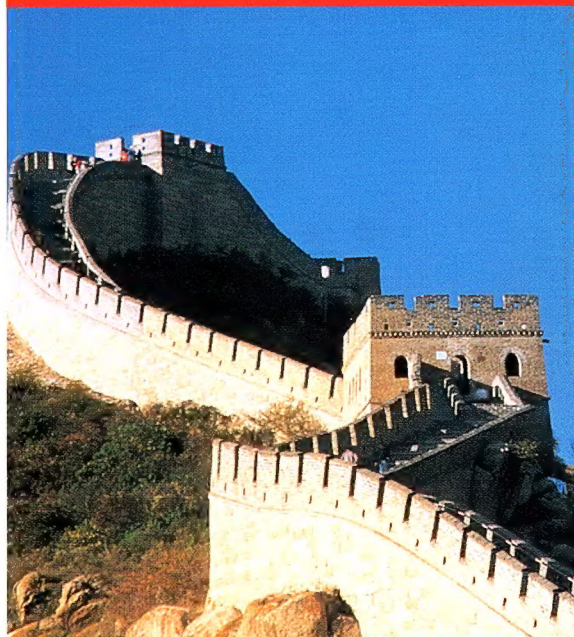




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# The Force of Nature

Known as China's sorrow because of its propensity to flood the Great Yellow River gets its name from the masses of yellow silt drawn down from the loess plains which is then deposited in its riverbed causing the river to overflow and break its banks. Like a raging dragon out of control this river snakes and thunders forward with little respect for anything standing in its path. Few have managed to tame her but many have felt the wrath of her immense strength. At the Hukou Waterfalls in Shanxi Province the Yellow River plunges, full force, down a 30-metre drop sending up plumes of spray and creating dancing rainbows in her mists. In the rainy season the waters of this mighty river swell as other tributaries join her ranks in the march towards the sea, its colour making it look like a massive mud slide. During this season, sudden water curtains of over 30 metres wide suddenly appear at the falls only to vanish hours later. In winter the mighty dragon rests and a winter wonderland of frozen water and icicles is created. A sight to behold. And for the explorers amongst us there are many ancient relics waiting to be discovered in the Hukou Scenic Area.

Onward to Tiantai Mountain, Zhejiang Province, the birthplace of Tiantai sect of Buddhism, where our reporter leads you through spectacular peaks, streams and waterfalls and onto the best preserved Buddhist temple in China – the ancient Guoqing Temple. From ancient to modern and the rising citadel of Pudong in Shanghai. Within its confines proudly stands the space-like TV Tower. Towering at a mighty 468 metres it is Shanghai's best known landmark but it will soon be dwarfed by newer and taller sky-scrappers as the commercial world seeks to build a stronghold in this fast developing and fashionable area.

Happy reading!



## LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA



### The Great Yellow Waterfalls — A Trip to the Hukou Scenic Area in Shanxi

8

Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang

We join the mighty Yellow River 45 kilometres south of the county town of Jixian, Shanxi Province, where the river bed narrows from a width of over 300 metres down to just 30 metres, combine this with a drop of over 30 metres and a most magnificent sight known as the Hukou Waterfalls is created. In winter the torrent subsides and the waterfall is shrouded in a crystal maze of icicles. If the wonder of Nature is too much to take in a "walk-about" in this scenic area unearths relics of the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

## THE REALM OF RELIGION

### Birthplace of the Tiantai Sect of Buddhism — The Quiet and Picturesque Tiantai Mountain 20

Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui

Tiantai Mountain in Zhejiang Province became famous when the Tiantai Sect of Buddhism was established in a shabby shrine, the predecessor of the Guoqing Temple, on the mountain. Also attracting visitors are its spectacular peaks, oddly shaped rocks, gurgling springs and waterfalls as well as a 1,600-year-old plum tree believed to have been planted by the founder of the Guoqing Temple. Today the Guoqing Temple not only provides food and lodgings for wandering monks but also pilgrims and visitors.



### Sacred Centre of the Jonong Sect of Tibetan Buddhism — Ancient Monasteries in Aba, Western Sichuan

58

Photos & Article by Xue Huake

Remoteness is sometimes a blessing and to the inhabitants of the small Tibetan village 210 kilometres from the nearest city, is an ideal location. Ostracized by the Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhism, the Jonong Sect in Middle Zamtang, have followed the teachings of their founder for over 700 years.



## CITIES IN DEVELOPMENT



### Pudong — A Rising Star

44

Article by Zhu Rui

At one time, if a Shanghainese said they came from Pudong they would be considered as coming from “the wrong side of the railroad tracks”, or in this case the wrong side of Huangpu River. Today, the Pudong Shanghainese are proud of where they live. In fact, the rising star of Pudong may soon overshadow its previous champion, Puxi. Read how Pudong is fast becoming the new hub of commerce in Shanghai, and is possibly witnessing a new era of super-skyscrapers.

## ANCIENT TOWNS AND CIVILIZATIONS



### Zhugue Town in Zhejiang

66

Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui

At the foot of Gaolong Hill lies the tiny town of Zhugue in Zhejiang Province. Here the direct descendants of the strategist Zhuge Liang celebrate the memory of their forefather with statues, opera, ceremonies and a mighty tome charting the long line of his proud descendants.

## LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA

### The Great Yellow Waterfalls

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Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang

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**Front Cover:** Guoqing Temple on Tiantai Mountain in Zhejiang Province (by Xie Guanghui)





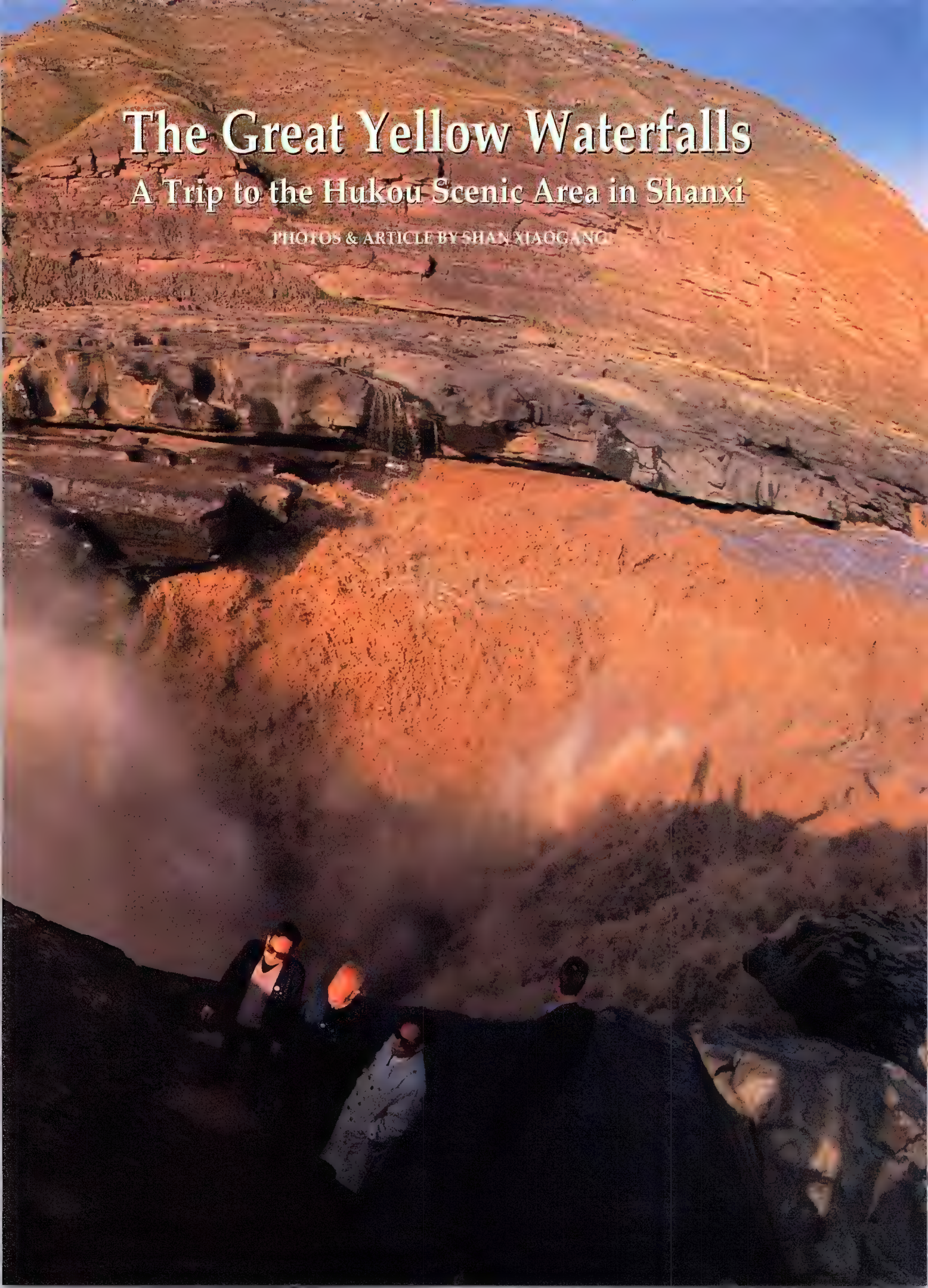
*The morning sun casts its rays from the hilltop at the Hukon Waterfalls.*



# The Great Yellow Waterfalls

A Trip to the Hukou Scenic Area in Shanxi

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY SHAN XIAOGANG





From its source in Qinghai, the Yellow River flows east through Sichuan, Gansu, Ningxia where it is blocked by the Luliang Mountains at Hekou Town, Togtoh County, Inner Mongolia. It thus turns south into the Shanxi-Shaanxi Valley to Longwangchan, 45 kilometres northwest of the county town of Jixian, eastern Shanxi, where the river narrows and cascades dramatically into a stone pond more than 30 metres below, creating the famous Hukou Waterfalls, giving rise to the main attraction of the Hukou Scenic Area (60 square kilometres) on the Yellow River. Accompanying scenic sites include the natural scenes known as the Autumn Wind at Hukou, Ten-li Dragon Trough, Precious Mirrors in Rock Holes, Nightly Moon at Mengmen, Fighting Tortoise and Ox, Evening Glow on Great Yu's Hat and man-made sites such as the Flying Bridge Over the Dragon Gate, Ming-Dynasty Dock, Pulling the Boat on the Land, the Qing-Dynasty Great Wall and the Horse Market.

The fame of the Hukou Waterfalls is widespread and its image is printed on the 50-yuan note of the Chinese currency. The Hukou Scenic Area, however, is much less well known.

### Red Autumnal Leaves Over the Mountains

One October morning last year, we boarded a west-bound bus from Linfen City, Shanxi Province. This four-hour trip took us past the Guantou and Gaozu mountains, the bus seeming to turn all the time, unable to reach the mountaintop. The road circling the mountain was in very good condition, but the long trip seemed to wear everyone's patience thin.

Never did I expect to find such beautiful scenery on the Loess Plateau in deep autumn. A mixture of bright coloured red and purple leaves covered up the hill side. On the way, we leaned against the window, intoxicated by the charm of the natural scenery. Near dusk, the "Magic Tortoise Guarding the River" dashed by. The site received its name from a huge rock formation on a hilltop that resembles a tortoise. In the evening dusk, it really seemed to be gently moving its body.

That evening, we checked into the guesthouse owned by the Hukou Scenic Area Administration. Conditions here were unexpectedly good. This stone villa-type hotel is built against the mountain and is only 200 metres away from the Yellow River Bridge. The furniture was specially ordered from Beijing, and the chefs were very skilled as the dishes were extremely tasty. Lucky visitors may even be able to try the delicious Yellow River carps.

Early next morning we went out to enjoy the scenery and found a large area of brawny stone riverbed in front of the hotel. Apparently the spot was reserved for building a small airport.

### The Only Yellow Waterfall in the World

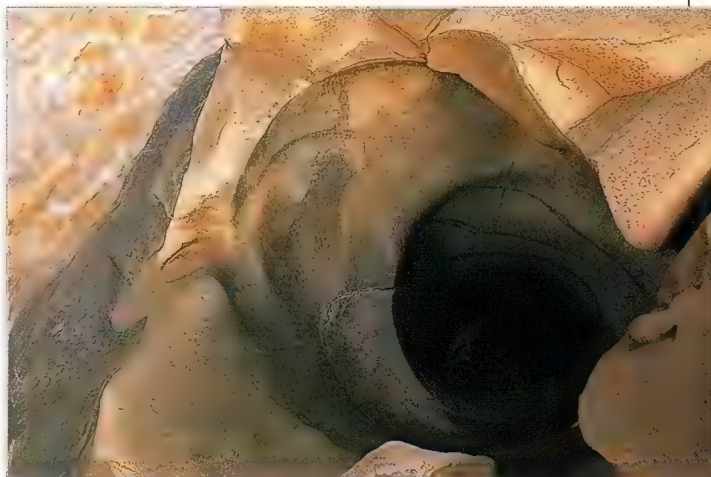
We set out for the Hukou Scenic Area after breakfast. The bus drove northward along a simple road beside the river for three kilometres where we got off and walked along the riverbed for about half a kilometre and found ourselves in front of the Hukou Waterfalls.

It happened to be the dry season for the Yellow River and so the waterfall was rather subdued. Only when we were a dozen metres away from it, did we hear the thundering water. Even when we stood on top of a cliff to one side of the waterfalls, we felt its immense strength and magnificence.

The river on the upper reaches of the Hukou Waterfalls is some 300 to 500 metres wide. When the river reaches Hukou, a change in the course of the riverbed suddenly narrows it down to just 30 or 50 metres. The gentle water thus becomes turbulent and gains speed as it rushes forward till it finally cascades down the waterfall, creating a vision of water being poured from a kettle, thus its name Hukou or Kettle Spout. Like thousands of tumbling dragons or enraged animals that have just been set free, the yellowish water plunges down into the stone pond more than 30 metres below, creating a howling, surging yellow waterfall, whose pounding against the stones echoes a thundering sound. Though it is not ranked among the largest waterfalls in the world, it does stand out as the only yellow waterfall.

### The Scenery Changes with the Season

The Hukou Waterfalls consist of the main and subsidiary falls and the scene varies with each season, or even with each minute! When the river volume is low, people can only see the fall at the "spout of the kettle"



1. The north section of the Ten-li Dragon Trough and the Hukou Waterfalls in the morning sun

2. A whirl-like stone cave on the east side of the waterfalls ejects water when the river level is high.

3. At the "kettle spout", cliffs protrude and waves are turbulent. Mists continue to curl.

4. Hollow layers created by age-old washing of the Yellow River water





3

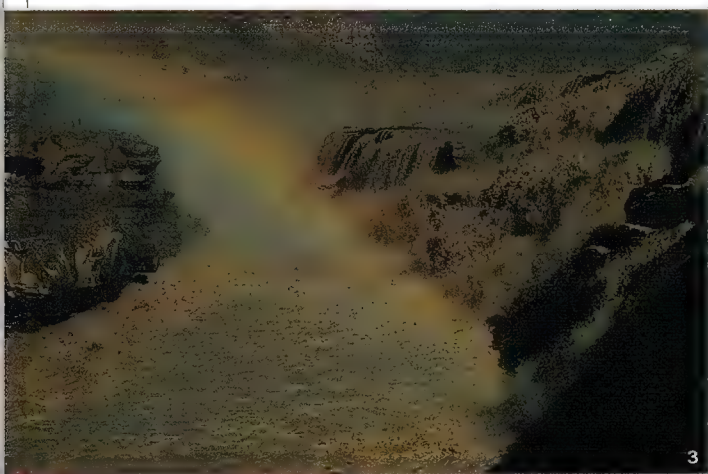


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which is known as the main fall. But when the water volume increases, the river water spreads onto both sides of the riverbed and then falls down from the cliffs on the east and west of the stone pond, creating a water curtain. During the flood season, the river is at its most impressive when the falls are several hundred metres wide. The most dramatic change occurs from deep winter to early spring, the river dries up as the river surface is frozen into ice, but a steady stream still flows on, making the scene a gentle beauty. Sometimes, the subsidiary falls freeze into rows of icicles, creating images of crouching beasts on top of the cliffs. In late spring when the peach trees are in blossom, the frozen river melts and the flow once again begins to increase drastically in volume. As the water roars forward, it carries with it chunks of ice. Occasionally, icicles over the falls cross each other to form into natural ice bridges, hence a sight known as the "Hukou Bridge", and exceptionally bold people can actually cross the river along this bridge. In summer, the river reduces its volume and the water level in the stone pond decreases, increasing the length of the water drop and seemingly intensifying the water cascade. Standing close to the falls, one will find the dancing waves throw up beautiful water plumes and mists from the pond. With the coming of autumn, rain becomes more frequent. Tributaries feed more water into the river, bringing the volume in the river to more than 3,000 cubic metres per second. During this time, the main and subsidiary falls merge together crashing into the stone pond.

On our trip, we saw water curtains of various size miraculously occur. The water volume suddenly increased together with a mounting roaring sound and before we knew it, a subsidiary fall stretching 30 to 40 metres wide appeared. When we went back to the site several hours later, the subsidiary fall had disappeared as amazingly as it had come.

### The Moving Waterfalls

1. It takes skill and boldness to walk the tight rope in front of the Hukou Waterfalls!

2. Solid rubber boats are needed to drift down the lower reaches of the Hukou area.

3. Afternoon on fine days, the sunshine creates beautiful rainbows in the mists.

4. The waves at the Hukou Waterfalls present an exciting sight.

The sprays and water drops thrown up by the crashing water into the stone pond rise several dozen metres high and then spread, forming a giant fog, crowning both banks and drizzling on visitors at the site. This scene is known as the "Water Smoke". As the sun rises casting stronger rays, the misty fog reflects a huge rainbow, which changes its size in harmony with the rise and fall of the mists. It changes its location too, one minute lying at the bottom of the pond, the next over the surging waves. This beautiful rainbow, however, can only be seen at certain hours of the day and from certain angles. All tourists pray to be lucky enough to see it. Some very bold tourists even climb onto the cliffs only metres away from the waterfalls, to have a unique view or take pictures.

The stone pond under the waterfalls is 30 to 50 metres wide and 40 metres deep. The river flows into it and then rushes out southward. The local people call this section the "Dragon Trough". This stone ditch has been deeply carved into the hard riverbed and meanders its way forward for five kilometres.

The force of the water pushes the location of the waterfalls upstream two to four centimetres each year. In the span of 2,700 years, the present site of the waterfalls has moved more than 3,000 metres north of the original location recorded in the *Book of History* and *The Annals of Yuanhe Prefecture*. This ditch is evidence of the "migration" of the Hukou Waterfalls.











1. The waist drums beat in unison with the roaring of the Hukou Waterfalls during the activities of river-drifting.
2. Coming to the market fair on donkey back
3. Tourist boat sailing on the Yellow River

In late November, ice forms on the Dragon Trough and by early December, it is frozen solid, so solid that it is accessible to vehicles. Before the Yellow River Bridge was built, it had long served as a main thoroughfare for the local people who fondly call the frozen ditch "Magic Bridge".

Half a kilometre down the Dragon Trough is another waterfall cascading east to the west, called the Shangdaohe Waterfall, which ordinary tourists rarely visit. Like a golden ribbon, it drops down more than 30 metres from cliffs into the Dragon Trough. It is truly worth seeing.

### Pulling the Boat Over Land

The Erdao is a small river about 100 metres east of the waterfalls that people have chiselled out of the solid riverbed. Before the Datong-Pukou Railway launched into service, grain, oil, red dates, medicinal herbs, fur, porcelain and soda, produced north of the Hukou Waterfalls, had to be transported on the Yellow River for sale in the south. Each year 3,000 to 4,000 boats carried approximately 30,000 tons of cargo on the river. When the boats were blocked by the Hukou Waterfalls, they had to be unloaded, dragged out of the river, pulled across dry land for three to four kilometres past the waterfall region before they continue their journey along the river. This practice, known as "pulling the boat on the land", has been going on for ages.

Washed by the water for years, the rocks on both sides of the Dragon Trough reveal fossil patterns of leaves, birds and insects. On the east side of the Hukou Waterfalls, is a whirl-shaped cave just above the water level. When the water rises, water is ejected from the cave. As time has passed indentations have been left on the light red rock face creating various patterns and countless numbers of holes of various sizes and depth. The

small ones are the size of bowls while the large ones vats. All the holes fill with water and reflect the surrounding scenery of mountains and rivers, giving rise to the term "Precious Mirrors in Rock Holes". We were told these holes were the work of flood waters beating against the rocks.

At Longwangchan, one kilometre east of the waterfalls, are several rows of dilapidated cave dwellings, which are the ruins of a wharf of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). In ancient times, river transportation was very busy, thus a cargo wharf was built and a tax office was established. At that time, it was a prosperous place since even pawnshops here numbered one dozen.

### The Inner Great Wall of the Qing Dynasty

On the mountain slope south of the ruins of the Ming-dynasty wharf stands the Heqing Gate Tower built during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), which is still intact today. The characters on the stone plaque of the tower are clearly visible and the battlements and shooting holes are as solid as before. In front of the gate tower is a pavilion exquisitely built, shielding a meticulously carved stone tablet. Falling stones from the mountain have ruined the pavilion, but the stone tablet still stands. Inscriptions on the tablet say that during 1867 and 1872, a military defence wall of 75 kilometres long was erected east of the Hukou Waterfalls it served both as a plank road and an elevated wall. It is known as the Inner Great Wall of the Qing Dynasty. The discovery of this section of the wall has brought the history of Great Wall construction forward 300 years or more. Originally, people believed that the building of the Great Wall ended with the Ming Dynasty, but this wall indicates that the construction continued well into the succeeding Qing Dynasty.

Going through the stone archway of the gate tower and continuing along the wall southward for about 100 metres, a temple structure in the architectural style of cave buildings stands on a platform, built for the oxen and horses which used to help pull the boats onto dry land. Inside the temple, the original murals and sculptures no longer exist, but the stone tablet, lions, tables and stools are still in front of the gate. A row of cave dwellings have recently been built to accommodate visitors.

The courtyard of the temple is some 30 metres above the river bed. The entrance is guarded by a pair of stone lions and an iron cannon left by the Qing army. This is also an advantageous place to view the Hukou Waterfalls as visitors can sit on the stone stools and enjoy the panoramic view of the waterfalls over a cup of tea.





On our way back from the waterfalls, we stopped half way and came to the site of a small stream. To its east is a solitary peak called the Great Yu's Hat Peak. This is the site known as the "Evening Glow on Great Yu's Hat". According to one legend, when Great Yu, founder of the legendary Xia Dynasty of 21st and 16th century B.C., tired from fighting the flood, he came to take a rest by the stream and tossed his hat on the hill nearby and forgot to take it with him when he left. With the passing of time, the hat and the hilltop formed into one entity to create what the peak looks like today.



1

### A Bird's-Eye View of the Gate-Like Rock

As the sun shone from the west we came to the Hukou Waterfalls once again. The Yellow River, tinged with sunshine rippled in gold and mists continued to rise from the stone pond. Set off by the rolling mountains on the west bank, the site was a solemn scene of beauty.

When the Yellow River water from the north breaks loose from the Dragon Trough, the river broadens and the water gradually calms down. It flows south for one kilometre underneath the bridge and is divided into two channels by a huge rock in mid-river. The rock, called the Mengmen (Meng Gate), is like a huge boat sailing upstream when viewed from distance. From above some say it looks like a gate, or like a hill when viewed nearer.

When the moon is full, the Mengmen Hill presents a moving scene as the rock hill appears to move with the river waves and the moonlight reflects the surf. Standing on the north bank and looking south, one finds the moon's reflection in the river splits into two and flows downstream. Standing on the south bank and looking north, one sees the split moon's reflection merge into one again. This is the famous "Nightly Moon at Mengmen". Unfortunately, we came at the wrong time and could not see this unique view. We walked down hill and saw across the water four huge characters on the Mengmen Hill, meaning "Stabilizing the Turbulent Water Flow". Though an iron chain bridge joins the hill with the bank, unless exceptionally bold, no one dares to walk on it since it is in poor condition and it is already listing to one side.

### The Ancient Sangjin Ferry

At noon we boarded a boat to take a cruise on the Yellow River. A steel tourist boat docked on the bank attracted people's attention. We were told that it could sail only during the high tide season. Known as *Hukou No. 1*, it can accommodate more than 30 passengers. Owned by the Jixian Tourism Bureau, it offers one-day trips between the Hukou Scenic Area and Yumenkou in Hejin County.

The passenger dock, which used to be known as the Sanjin Ancient Ferry, is a series of stone stairs chiselled during the Qing Dynasty, out of the rock cliffs right to the water. Pushed by the chugging diesel motor, the wooden boat sailed around the Mengmen Hill once and then underneath the Yellow River Bridge towards the Dragon Trough. In the Dragon Trough, the cliffs on both sides seemed to lean down on the boat and then retreated behind us. Some rocks were as smooth as mirrors, others were grotesque looking. Against the turbulent current, the boat laboured and the motor grew hot, issuing steam. We failed to reach the Hukou Waterfalls by boat!

### The Unique Way of Hagglng at the Market

When we climbed onto the bank, we found herds of horses, mules, sheep and oxen on the southeastern mountain slope at the east end of the bridge. People clad like farmers standing in small groups seemed to be busy discussing something. On the mountain path near and far, more people appeared. Some mountain dwellers came on donkey back or pulling the donkeys along. In colourful clothes, they came with local produce carried either by themselves or by their animals. The place is called Qilangwo and serves as a market place on the 7th, 17th and 27th day every lunar month. This day happened to be the 17th day of the ninth month in the lunar calendar which was a market day. Thus, people living in the surrounding mountains converged here to sell their animals, local produce and buy daily necessities or to visit people and enjoy the activities at the fair, since life in the mountains is usually simple and monotonous.

In trading animals, people still maintained the tradition of negotiating the price by touching each other's fingers tucked under the jacket. When they did speak, they used a local dialect hard for outsiders to understand. It was indeed an ancient, interesting and yet strange custom.

Translated by Huang Youyi



2

1. An iron cannon used by the Qing-dynasty troops to guard the Great Wall
2. The Great Yu's Hat Peak is said to be formed by a hill and the hat Yu left behind 4,000 years ago.
3. The ruins of the Heqing Gate on the Great Wall overlooking the Yellow River Gorge
4. The Mengmen Hill is joined to the bank by an iron chain bridge.





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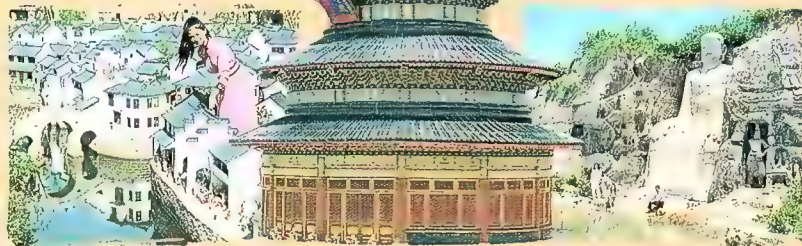
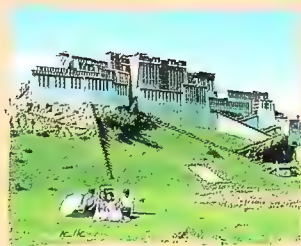


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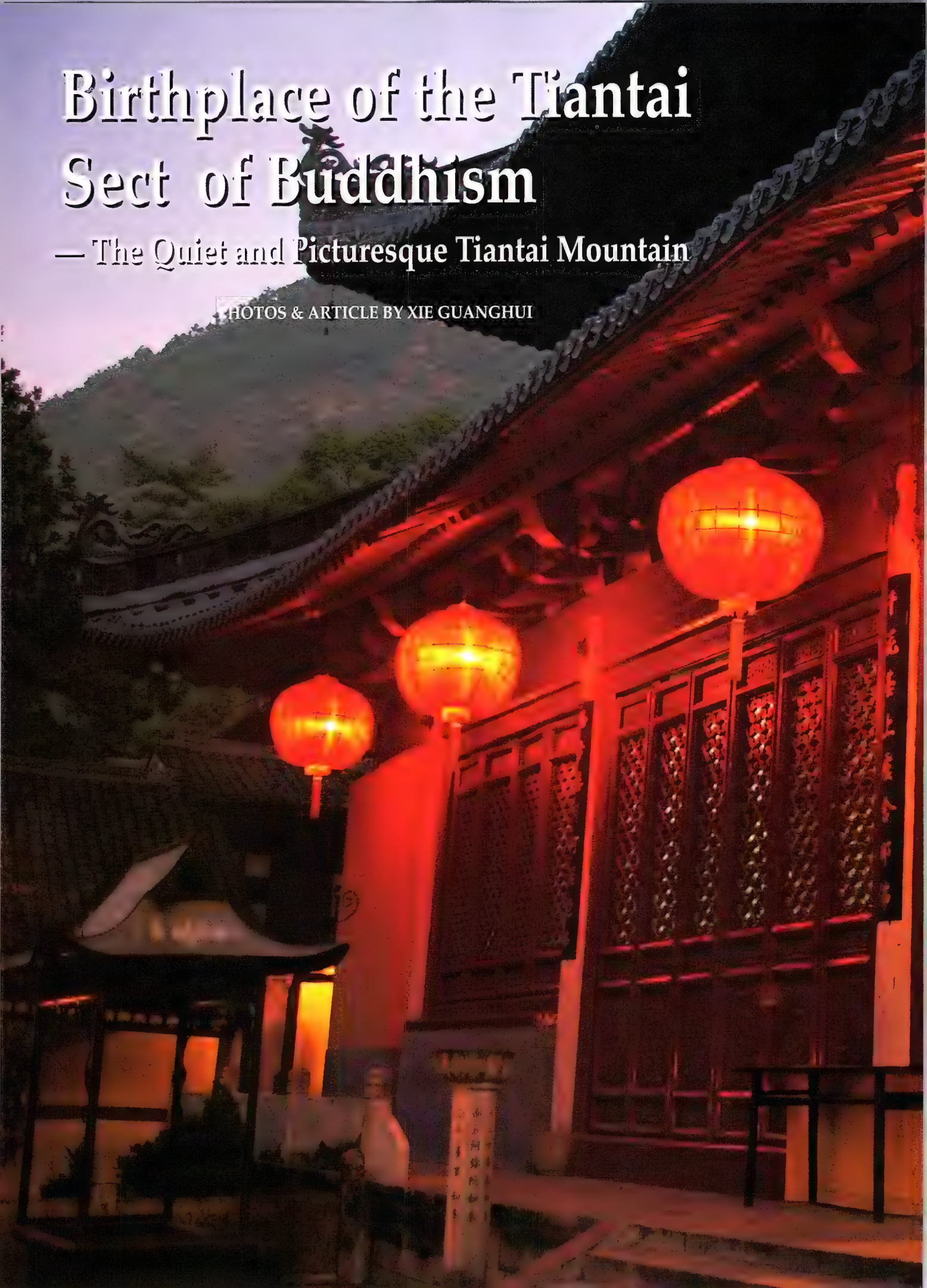
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# Birthplace of the Tiantai Sect of Buddhism

— The Quiet and Picturesque Tiantai Mountain

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI







*Guoqing Temple, built in 597 during the Sui Dynasty, has a history of 1,400 years.*







Tiantai Mountain which rises close to the north of the county town of Tiantai in Zhejiang Province is the birthplace of the Tiantai sect of Chinese Buddhism. The ancient Guoqing Temple on the mountain, built in the Sui Dynasty (581-618) and reconstructed during the Qing (1644-1911), is a large complex of buildings consisting of 600 halls and rooms. It is one of the best-preserved Buddhist temples found in China. Tiantai Mountain is known for its spectacular peaks, oddly shaped rocks, gurgling springs and overhanging waterfalls. Among the scenic attractions on the mountain are the Elegant Summit, Overhanging Waterfall Under a Stone Beam, Dripping Water from a Brass Pot, Linger- ing Afterglow at Chicheng, Moonlight Night at Qiongtai Terrace and Spring Morning at Peach Stream. Also to be found on the mountain are pagodas and a



plum tree of the Sui Dynasty, a stupa yard and the stupa in which Monk Yi Xing of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) was buried.

Last autumn I travelled from Hangzhou to Tiantai Mountain in eastern Zhejiang Province by a long-distance coach, which took me directly to the famous Guoqing Temple about four kilometres to the north of the county town of Tiantai. The temple is hidden in a quiet and secluded spot surrounded by mountain peaks and towering trees and flanked by gullies on its eastern and western sides. Only a narrow opening in the south leads to the county town.

It was three o'clock in the afternoon and a prayer ceremony sponsored by a Mrs. Ru Xiu from Hong Kong for saving the souls of those who died in water or on land was underway. The grand prayer ceremony which had lasted for seven days was performed on an empty lot about 200 square metres outside the temple by more than 70 monks and watched by a large number of men and women believers. When I got there, the ceremony was coming to an end. As the monks chanted scriptures, Mrs. Ru Xiu set fire to a paper boat about seven metres tall and five or six metres long, loaded with paper silver ingots. As the ashes hovered in the air, an elderly lady standing close to me told me that Mrs. Ru Xiu had spent HK\$120,000 on the ceremony.

1. The remains of Monk Zhi Yi are preserved in this stupa in Zhenjue Temple at Jindiling.

2. The 81-year-old Monk Bao Ren sits on a dais in the Rain Flower Hall of Guoqing Temple, performing a prayer ceremony for feeding hungry ghosts.







### Food and Lodgings for Wandering Monks and Tourists

The screen wall in front of Guoqing Temple was inscribed with four large characters, "An Ancient Temple of the Sui Dynasty". Walking to the other side of the screen wall, however, I could not find the front gate of this south-facing temple. I had to make a 90-degree turn to the right to see the front gate, which was a simple structure with few ornaments and looked just like the gate of an ordinary dwelling.

Behind the unpretentious front gate, however, the buildings and structures in the temple were magnificent in style. The entire temple occupied 7.3 hectares of land, and the halls, pavilions and towers were built on a gentle slope of the mountain. I followed the north-south axis and came to Maitreya Hall. Inside the hall, behind the statue of the eternally smiling Maitreya Buddha stood the statue of Wei Tuo holding a magic wand in both his hands, a sign indicating that any wandering monk can have food and lodgings in the temple. The temple also provides food and lodgings for ordinary tourists.

Coming out of Maitreya Hall and walking past Rain Flower Hall, I went to take up my lodgings in the building on the western wing. The building was a two-storey structure and my room was at the southern end on the second floor. Through the open window, I could see Buddha's Hall on the left, Rain Flower Hall on the right and the dining hall opposite. As

soon as I put down my things, the sound of a "wooden fish", a hollow wooden block for beating rhythm by Buddhists, began to come from the dining hall, indicating that it was time for supper. I looked at my watch. It was only half past four.

When I walked into the dining hall, I found the hall was already filled with monks sitting in neat rows. After reciting a dining prayer, a leading monk named Sheng Yue picked a handful of cooked rice with bamboo sticks and put it on a square table outside under the eaves of the hall for feeding birds.

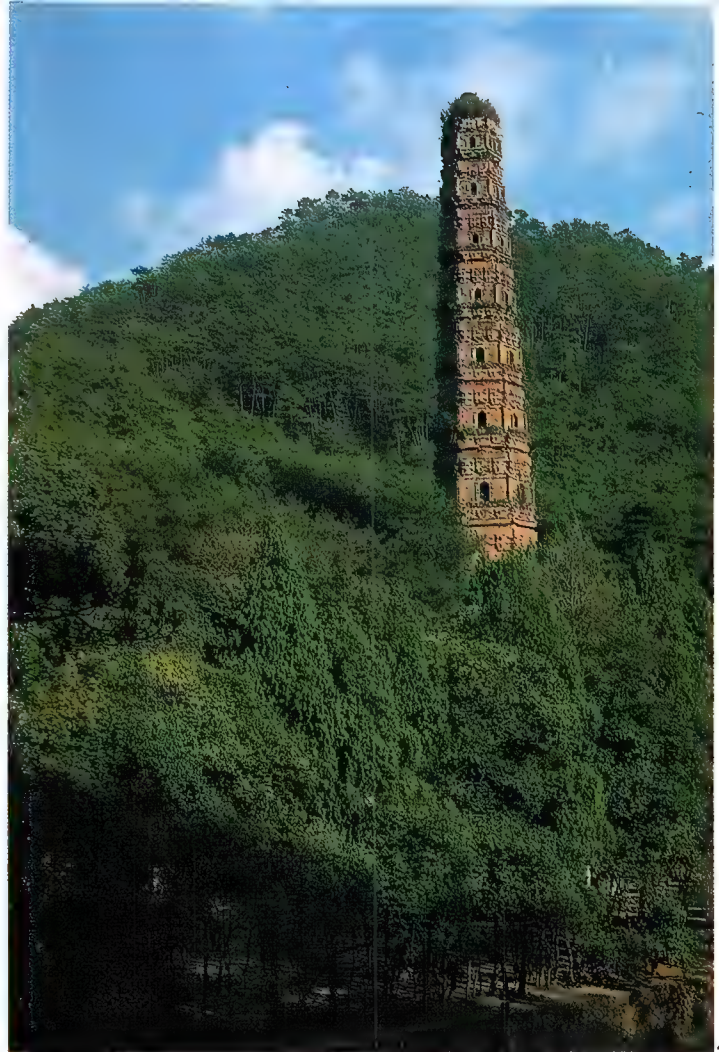
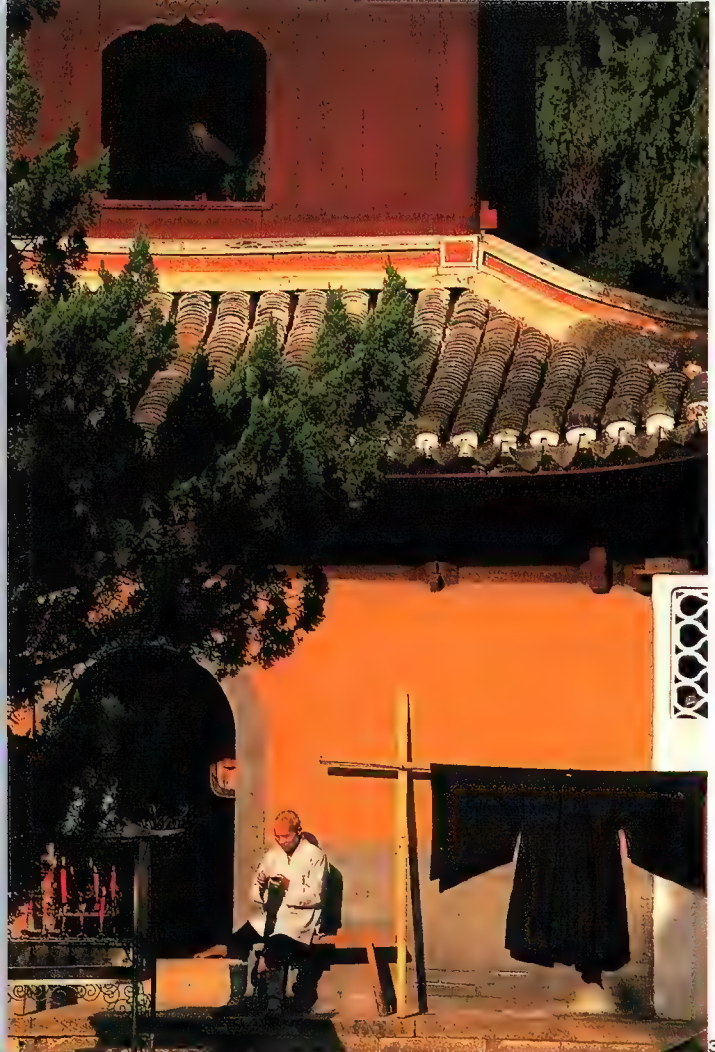
Supper consisted of a dish and a soup, contained in large bowls. Diners helped themselves to the rice in a big wooden barrel. Sitting next to me were an old farmer couple, who cultivated about one hectare of the temple's paddy-fields by contract. Rice had just been harvested a few days ago, and as the sun was bright, they were busy sunning the new harvest. Guoqing Temple had about three hectares of paddy-fields, which were all cultivated by local contract farmers.



### Tablet in Memory of Monk Yi Xing

As it was still light after supper, I took a walk from the temple to Fenggan Bridge which spanned a mountain stream. At one end of the bridge stood a stone tablet inscribed with these words: "This stream flew westward where Yi Xing was here." The stone tablet was erected in memory of Monk Yi Xing, who was a famous astronomer of the Tang Dynasty





According to *The Old History of the Tang Dynasty*, Volume 191, for compiling the Dayan Calendar, Monk Yi Xing travelled to many places in the country to consult with noted scholars. The abbot of Guoqing Temple at the time was an outstanding mathematician. When Yi Xing came to the temple to consult with him, flood waters rose in the mountain stream and started to flow westward. Hence the inscription on the stone tablet.

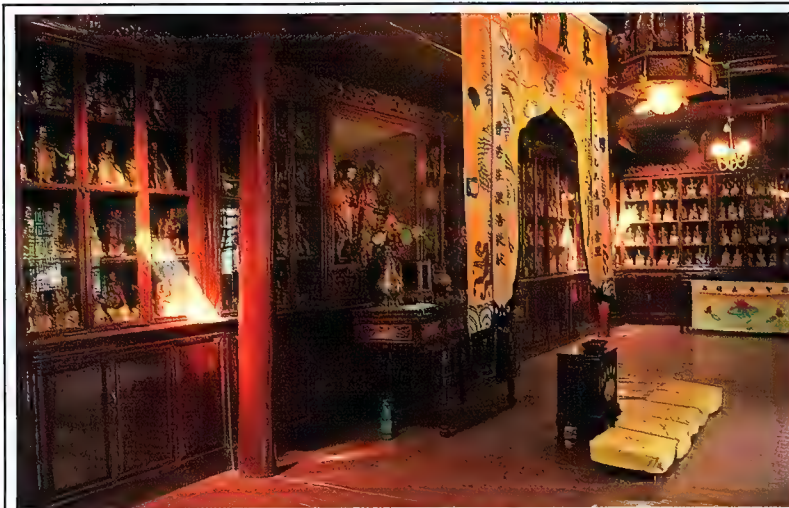
The Dayan Calendar compiled by Yi Xing corrected some early errors in calendar-making. He rearranged the 24 solar terms in unequal periods and made an important breakthrough in the history of Chinese calendar-making. Together with Zhang Heng, Li Shizhen and Huang Daopo, Yi Xing was named one of the four outstanding scientists of ancient China.

A winding flight of steps about 30 metres in length leads from a stupa to the Sui-dynasty pagoda in the south. This nine-storey hexagonal pagoda is a brick and wooden structure. Empty inside, the first storey has two arched doors opening to the east and west. From the second storey up, there are Buddhist niches on every floor. Each brick of the inside walls is carved with three statuettes in the sitting position, measuring 18 centimetres in height. The roof of the pagoda is slightly damaged and overgrown with weeds, but the pagoda itself still stood in its full splendour as it did 1,400 years ago.

## The 1,400-Year-Old Guoqing Temple

When I returned to the temple in the fading daylight, a ceremony for feeding hungry ghosts was being held in Rain Flower Hall. The 81-year-old Monk Bao Ren was sitting on a dais, his palms joined and his eyes half-closed as he recited scriptures continually. Below him were eight more monks beating rhythm with Buddhist musical instruments. The two donors sat on one side. It required 300-400 yuan to sponsor a ghost-feeding ceremony, and the donors usually gave 10-20 yuan to each of the monks as tips.

Coming out of Buddha's Hall, I took myself to Saddharma Hall on the western side of Buddha's Hall. As it was autumn, the leaves of the plantains in front of the hall were dark green and the air was filled with the sweet fragrance of osmanthus flowers. At the centre of the clean and spacious Saddharma Hall was a dais. A horizontal board



1. At a prayer ceremony for saving the souls of those who died in water and on land. The HK\$120,000-ceremony was sponsored by Mrs. Ru Xiu from Hong Kong.
2. Women believers burn paper to invoke blessing after a prayer ceremony.
3. The monks in Guoqing Temple on Tiantai Mountain lead a simple life.
4. There are Buddhist niches on each floor of this Sui-dynasty pagoda, which was erected at the same time when Guoqing Temple was built.
5. Yingzhen Pavilion in the lower Fangguang Temple on Tiantai Mountain



# 天台山

inscribed with: "Lecturing Dais of the Founder of the Tiantai Sect" in gold characters hung above the dais. Beneath the board was a portrait of the great Buddhist master, Zhi Yi painted in ink and colour. Every evening, with red candles burning, the monks studied scriptures in this hall.

At three o'clock the following morning, I was awoken by the sound of someone beating a hollow bamboo. Looking out of the window, I saw a faint light in Buddha's Hall. As I walked into Buddha's Hall, I found the monks already immersed in their morning lessons, supervised by the abbot Ke Ming, who was over 60. When the morning lessons ended, the day was just breaking. I strolled to Sangharama Hall to the left of Buddha's Hall. There was a full-foliaged old plum tree in front of Sangharama Hall. This was the Sui-dynasty plum which was said to have been planted by Guan Ding, the founding master of Guoqing Temple. Over the past 1,400 years, Guoqing Temple had experienced more than one rise and fall and was once destroyed in war. The ancient plum tree, however, remains intact.

The 500 arhats, or Buddhist saints, are said to have passed to their next lives on Tiantai Mountain. The original Arhats Hall, which had been converted into an exhibition hall, was quite spacious. A new and more imposing Arhats Hall had been completed in the western part of the temple. Near the new hall were a dozen or so sculptors working on life-size



statues of arhats. They had worked for more than five years and completed 400-plus statues. When all the 500 arhats are finished in the first half of this year, they will be gilded with golden lacquer. The wood for the statues was provided by the temple.

A mini-bus took me from Guoqing Temple to the Overhanging Waterfall Under a Stone Beam, which has been praised as the only one of its kind in the world. The mini-bus climbed the mountain along a winding highway. On one side of the mountain was a stream rushing down the slope. After climbing over several peaks, the bus paused on the flat Golden Summit, where there were families living in neatly arranged hamlets.

On Golden Summit is a temple named Zhenjue. In the temple was a stupa in which the remains of Monk Zhi Yi, founder of the Tiantai sect, were preserved.

Upon reaching Shiliang Village, the bus driver pointed the way to Fangguang Temple for us. Following his directions, we walked on foot to the temple. There were inns with awnings erected along the road but few visitors. The place looked deserted.

Fangguang Temple was actually three temples: upper, middle and lower. The upper Fangguang Temple was located above the waterfall; middle Fangguang beside the waterfall; and lower Fangguang below the waterfall and one on the southern side of a stream. The middle Fangguang and lower Fangguang were separated by a distance of 500 metres. As we walked, we





began to hear the roar of the waterfall and soon caught sight of the waterfall itself, which looked like a giant silvery curtain hanging down from the sky. A natural stone beam suspended about two metres above and across the waterfall. Against the background of distant mountain peaks, a blue sky, against the by green bamboo, and the red wall and yellow glazed tiles of the temple, the waterfall and stone beam formed a wonderful Chinese landscape painting.

### Quiet and Picturesque Surroundings

In the lower Fangguang Temple's Yingzhen Pavilion I saw the statues of another 500 arhats. The pavilion was the place where the arhats were said to have held Buddhist rites. Monk Yue Zhen, the abbot of the temple, was quite young. He had dinner with me and invited me to drink tea in his room.

Monk Yue Zhen's room was on the top floor of a two-storey building, close to the waterfall. It was a room of about 10 square metres partitioned by wooden planks into two sections. A bed was placed close to the wall in the inner section. A scroll inscribed with a large character for "Buddha" was hung on the southern wall. The room was clean and simply decorated. A desk and a bookshelf stocked half with Buddhist books and half with books of Chinese art history and reproductions of calligraphic works of the Qin, Han and later periods.

He made a cup of tea for me and told me it was Cloud and Fog Tea of Tiantai Mountain that he had baked himself. The tea



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was delicate green in colour and the leaves tender. I took a sip and found that it was an excellent brew, rich in flavour and fragrance. In 1980, the Japanese Urasenke Delegation for the Study of the History of Tea in Japan made a special trip to Tiantai Mountain. The members of the delegation sipped tea in a pavilion as they listened to the waterfall. They were unanimous that the Cloud and Fog Tea of Tiantai Mountain was excellent. In fact, the earliest tea in Japan was actually brought over from Tiantai Mountain when Buddhism spread eastward and the distinguished Japanese monk, Senko Eisai came to study in China in 1168.

Monk Yue Zhen was a graduate of the Zhejiang Art College. He sought quietude and became a monk on Tiantai Mountain. He chose Tiantai Mountain

partly because he was enchanted by its beautiful landscape and quiet surroundings.

Translated by Tang Bowen



1. Monk Yue Zhen, the abbot of the lower Fangguang Temple, is a graduate of Zhejiang Art College. He is seen here studying Buddhist scriptures.
2. Guoqing Temple owns about three hectares of paddy-fields, which makes them self-sufficient in their daily need for rice.
3. A tomb in which the hat and robe of the famous astronomer Monk Yi Xing were buried in Guoqing Temple.
4. An exchange for Buddhist articles in Guoqing Temple. Available here are Buddhist scriptures, books and reproductions of calligraphic works.







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# Learn to Bargain at the Beijing Antiques Market

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY LIU YANG

*taking the old pendulum clock home*

The largest antique market of Beijing is located at Panjiayuan in the southeastern corner of the city. On Sundays it opens from six in the morning until three in the afternoon. Antique collectors often come here in search of "treasures". People visiting Beijing on business trips also like to pay a visit to this market.

## An Aladdin's Cave

Because of its fame, I went there one day. Before I entered the market, a man with a

Hebei accent approached me and said in a serious tone, "Do you want some porcelains of the Song Dynasty?" I shook my head. "Then what about paintings of Zheng Banqiao?" I shook my head again. Zheng Banqiao (1693-1765) was a Qing-dynasty artist and writer renowned as one of the "Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou" in the art circle. If what he sold were the genuine articles I could not afford them; if what he sold were fake I would not be able to tell. So I could only shake my head. He did not know what I really thought.

The market was so large that I could not see its end. It was crowded with at least a few thousand people. Numerous goods like old Western clocks, big brass gramophones, American kerosene lamps, Qing-dynasty official caps, faded old paintings, porcelains, furniture, old-style telephones, opium pipes and long-stemmed tobacco pipes, glasses traditionally worn by Chinese accountants of olden days, tiny embroidered shoes for bound feet.... Gold, silver, bronze, iron and tin wares and stone, wooden, jade, pottery and porcelain objects were displayed all over the ground; so many that my eyes could not take them all in. I had been to many antique markets, but this one was probably the largest and contained the greatest number of goods in Beijing.

I had long learned that Beijing is famous for its collection of antiques. Now I saw with my own eyes countless treasures and rare objects. Some had been removed from the "palace", some belonged to high officials and others had been collected by rich people from all over the country. This not only made Beijing the place with the largest collection of antiques but also the place for antique information and sales.





## One Needs to Know How to Buy Goods

At the centre of the market, I was stopped by a man who looked as though he was from another part of the country. "Please have a look at this..." he said while opening a paper wrapper. There were several layers of paper, and inside the paper was a red cloth which wrapped a small porcelain bowl. "This was found when our villagers were digging a well. This is genuine. How much would you pay for it?" He was very serious and his eyes looked at me earnestly. The bowl was very nice, looked antique and felt heavy. I hesitated momentarily and said without a second thought. "Twenty yuan." I immediately felt a bit guilty. The bowl must be very precious since it was wrapped in so many layers of paper. If it was not worth a thousand yuan, it would at least be valued at a few hundred. The man laughed, "Are you kidding? Look at its year, and its quality. Is it only worth that? It is worth at least 80 yuan." My heart laughed! The price I offered was not too far from his. I increased to 30 yuan, he reduced to 70; I offered 40 and he reduced to 60. I bargained for quite a while, and eventually he said, "Even if we cannot agree on the price, we still can be friends." He told me that most of the traders were from Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Jiangsu and Gansu provinces. Of the goods here some were real and others were fake. He complained repeatedly that there were too many fakes, and this made the genuine ones unable to sell at good prices. Some of the customers were collectors of antiques, some were speculators, and others were casual buyers. There were also rich people with low educations who bought antiques for the sake of showing off that they were cultured. I asked him if there were any knacks in buying antiques. "Of course there are a lot of knacks," he said. For professional antique collectors the most important


is to evaluate the goods. For those who do not know how to evaluate, price is the first thing they are concerned about.

### The Best Time for Bargaining

Prices are usually higher in the morning and drop just before the market closes in the afternoon, especially for bulky or heavy items. As long as there is a profit, the sellers are willing to sell off. It is often easier to bargain with sellers from outside Beijing who usually do not know much about antiques. Because most of the Beijing traders are semi-professional it is not easy to bargain with them. Whether you get a better price also depends on the buyer. If the buyer speaks in Chaoshou dialect, the seller immediately knows that he must have come from Hong Kong or Macau and that he may not be able to bargain well. If the buyer speaks in pure Beijing dialect whether he really knows about antiques or not, he may be able to hoodwink the seller. So it is better to bring along a Beijing friend to the market to help you haggle.

Finally I bought the bowl. Irrespective of whether it was unearthed while the villagers were digging a well, which dynasty it came from, how good its quality was, or whether it is worth the price it was my first tuition fee and I made a friend. It was worth it.

At about three o'clock, customers were thinning out and many traders had left.

Stalls were slowly gathering up their goods, waiting for their last customers. I came across an old wooden chair which I really wanted to buy. Guessing that it was the right time to bargain the price of the bulky chair, I went over to try to negotiate following the advice of the man who sold me the bowl. After several rounds, the result was fantastic. I only paid half of the original price. At the close of the market, I carried away the heavy chair feeling extraordinarily delighted. 

Translated by M. Q.

1. The antique market at Panjiayuan opens from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays.
2. On display are numerous goods including Western clocks brass gramophones and Mao Zedong badges.
3. There are real and fake goods, it all depends on the buyer's judgement.
4. The buyer and seller are bargaining.
5. You may make a surprising discovery at the second-hand book stall.







*"A Hundred Buddhas Balancing Lamps on Their Heads" has become special tourist attraction in the city of Sanmenxia (by Shan Xiaogang)*



## **"A Hundred Lamp-Balancing Buddhas"**

PHOTOS & TEXT BY SHI BAO XIU

*A five-year-old successor to the lamp-balancing skills*



Visitors to the city of Sanmenxia in Henan Province during the New Year will witness a spectacle known as "A Hundred Buddhas Balancing Lamps on Their Heads".

The festival is usually held on a plot of land where "Buddhas" with clean-shaven heads and dressed in bright red cassocks balance a bowl of coarse porcelain on their heads. Inside the bowl sand supports a burning red candle. As the "Buddhas" walk in circles, their red cassocks and candles look like a fiery dragon. Amazingly as they walk back and forth in circles, jump up and down and spin around, the bowls remain steady on their heads. The performance becomes even more spectacular at night when the hundred lamps present endless patterns.

The "Buddhas" are not actually monks. They are laymen from the Upper Village in Shanxian County on the outskirts of the city of Sanmenxia. Their lamp-balancing skills have been passed down for several centuries from generation to generation.

I brought myself to Upper Village one day to see how the "Buddhas" live their daily lives. I walked into the village at the end of the day's school classes. The street was full of school children running around. Most of the boys had clean-shaven heads. I stopped one of the boys and asked him why his head was shaven. He smiled and without answering me, he produced an enamel bowl from his satchel, bent down and scooped up a handful of earth into the bowl, placed it on his head and began to walk forward in steady steps.

When the other boys saw him, they each took out their bowls, each one a different colour and design, filled it with sand from the roadside, steadied it on the head and began to perform various postures, which included "a golden rooster standing on one leg", joining the hands in front of the chest and "Bodhisattva Guanyin sitting on a lotus flower". Some walked in quick steps and others turned in circles, presenting a joyous sight on the street. The boys had shaven their heads because they wanted to learn the skills.

At the school gate, I met the mistress of the Upper Village Primary School. Pointing towards the group of happy "little monks" in the street, she said that as the grown-ups in the village often went to the city of Sanmenxia to perform, the boys envied them and wanted to learn the skills of their elders. Some had even missed their school lessons. When the school authorities learned about what the boys were doing, they decided the boys were not wasting their time in a meaningless thing. After consulting with the teachers, they organized the boys who wanted to learn these skills, and gave them proper training in body building and taught them some basic skills after school so that they did not have to miss their lessons. A few days ago, the boys gave a performance of "Junior Buddhas Balancing Lamps on Their Heads" for foreign visitors in a hotel lobby.

In the courtyard of a "little monk's" home, I saw a group of boys who had just finished their homework walking in quick steps in a long line, each one steadying a bowl on their head.

Translated by Tang Bowen



1. These "little monks" are busy doing their school homework before they start their training in lamp-balancing skills.

2. Every one of them is quite serious about it.

3. Eight or nine out of every 10 boys in the Upper Village Primary School have shaven heads.



# An American Learns Carpentry in Ancient Huizhou

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI

Last year when I was taking photos of ancient buildings on an old street in Xixian County, Anhui Province, an American rode past me on a bicycle loaded with carpenter's tools. A local aged man told me that his Chinese name is Gu Tian and that he has been learning carpentry in Doushan Street for over two months. Gu Tian's interest for Chinese Hui-style buildings aroused my curiosity in him. So I went to Doushan Street in search of him.

During the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, Doushan Street was the residential area of rich Huizhou merchants and today many well-preserved Hui-style buildings still remain. I walked along a road paved with stone slabs and lined with high-walled houses. I pushed open a gate covered with big nipple-shaped nails and passed through a spacious courtyard. Going up some stairs I found Gu Tian making latticed doors and windows together with his master. These doors and windows were made according to the style of Ming-dynasty

(1279-1368) civilian buildings, that is, they were held together with wooden plugs instead of nails. I introduced myself briefly in English and added, "May I interview you?" Gu Tian nodded and then said with clear and correct pronunciation, "Ke yi" (Yes). It was to my great surprise that he could speak such good Chinese.

## Interest Lies in Chinese Civilian Houses

Gu Tian is 27 this year and graduated six months ago with a master's degree from the architecture speciality of Yale University in the United States. By coincidence he was granted a scholarship to study ancient architecture in China. Talking of his impressions of ancient Chinese buildings he said that he is more interested in civilian residences than palatial buildings as they are more flexible and varied in structure. For example, the civilian residences in northern and southern China are very different. Moreover civilian residences have a human interest.



1



1. Like the Chinese, Gu Tian likes to cycle to work.
2. Playing erhu on the Yuqiao Dam has become an everyday required lesson for Gu Tian.
3. Married to a Chinese girl, Gu Tian leads Chinese style life.

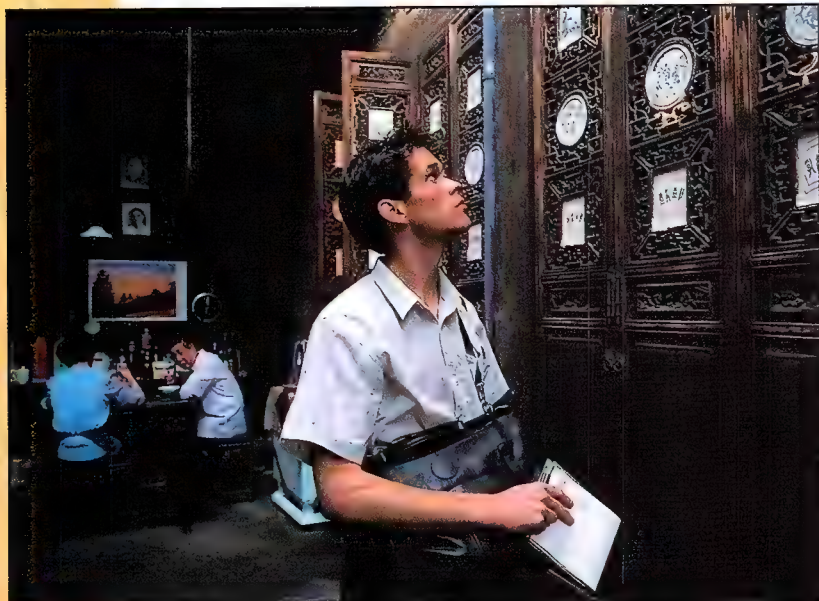




Xixian County is the cradle of Hui-school culture. In the Ming and Qing periods the county had a prosperous economy and attracted many talented people creating a wonderful culture and thus laying a solid foundation for the construction of Hui-style buildings. Gu Tian is particularly interested in the structures of ridges and beams (known as "cow legs" at that time) of Hui-style buildings. Every "cow leg" is decorated with carvings of historical figures. In Gu Tian's opinion, the success of a building lies in the perfect marriage of art and mechanics. In this respect, Chinese ancient buildings are very successful.

He also likes the Chinese saw as it looks like a bow of ancient times. He has asked his master, Zhang who is over 60, to make him a range of saws in various sizes. Master Zhang said, "Gu Tian is my last and best student. He is kind-hearted and loves Xiao Yu." Just then Xiao Yu, Gu Tian's wife, entered. Formerly a Beijinger she worked in a hotel but resigned once she married and she is now pregnant. At seeing his wife Gu Tian's eyes light up. Patting his wife's big belly he looked so happy.





1



2

1. Gu Tian inspects an ancient civilian building on Doushan Street.
2. Gu Tian prepares to send a gift of Chinese silk to his younger sister in the United States.
3. Lying on an ancient Chinese wooden bed, Gu Tian feels very comfortable.
4. Master Zhang, Gu Tian's teacher, is a veteran master carpenter with more than 40 years' experience.



3

## Chinese Style Home

In the evening Gu Tian and Xiao Yu invited me to dinner. Gu Tian's home was not far from Doushan Street. The furniture, scrolls of calligraphy and paintings on the wall made me feel that I was in a typical Chinese home. "Are you accustomed to Chinese life and habits?" I asked. "China is just like a great love affair. I fell in love with her as soon as I stepped on her soil," he replied with a smile. "Would you remain in China?" I asked again. "I think so. I like Chinese town more," he said.

Meanwhile Xiao Yu brought in a basin of kneaded flour. Under his wife's tuition Gu Tian dexterously made dumplings. By comparison I looked clumsy when I tried. After our meal of dumplings it was still early evening and so Gu Tian brought out his erhu, a Chinese stringed musical instrument and said he was going to the Yuqiao (Fishing Ridge) Dam to practise.

## Violin and Erhu

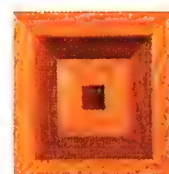
The Yuqiao Dam on the east end of Yuqiao Street was built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Sitting on top of the dam with his bared feet dangling in the water Gu Tian practised a tune "Flowing River Water" he had just learned the previous day. Although he knew how to play violin, to play erhu is a quite different. He had asked a music master of a local art troupe to coach him twice a week and paid him 5 yuan a month. With his conscientiousness and previous violin experience Gu Tian had made rapid progress.

It was getting dark. As we walked back along the old Yuqiao Street I told him that 500 years ago this was a bustling dock. Rich products in southern Anhui were exported from here. At that time there were many hotels, shops and restaurants. Gu Tian nodded, saying, "I can feel the history in the air."

When I said goodbye to him, Gu Tian told me that he was going to examine some civilian buildings in northern China next month. After that he would find a suitable place to settle down and ... he made a gesture of holding a baby. He was happy and excited. I, too, felt happy and gave him my heartfelt blessings.

Translated by Anne Yan









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# A Glimpse of Yunnan

PHOTOS & TEXT BY  
RONG SHAOXIN

Located in southwestern China, Yunnan Province is a red coloured plateau. Besides various nationalities, it experiences diverse climatic conditions because of its topographical locations in the north, south, east and west. The mist-covered mountain areas provide not only picturesque scenery, but thanks to the many nationalities and folk customs there are many great shots for photographers. The most memorable and most photographed are Yuanyang terraced fields, Dali fish corrals, Zhongdian countryside, Zhaotong wheat fields, Banna folklore and many other fascinating landscapes....

A photographer once said, "I don't know how many roads we have passed, mountains we have climbed, villages we have passed through and rivers we have forded so that we can take these photos. Remembering brings back both feelings of joy and pain...."

Although one could say coming back through Yunnan was not a fruitful journey, it has many unforgettable experiences. 

## Colourful Fields and Dreams

(Yuanyang, southern Yunnan)

Terraced fields showing great movement, ridge lines appear changeable and rhythmic. This beautiful sight is just like a painting providing great contrast lines, shades and colours.



## Returning Home (Northern Yunnan)

The setting sun reflects light and dark against the natural scene, a passer-by leads his horse and hurries home.







**Beneath the Giant Banyan Trees** (Ruili countryside, western Yunnan)

Passing under the elegant banyan trees in the morning sunlight are female villagers chit-chatting while hurrying for the market fair. Although they are busy with their lives, they are satisfied and optimistic. This kind of life style is envied by many people.

**Wheat Fields** (Zhaotong, northeastern Yunnan)

The fields of oat, buckwheat and rape flower blossom. This shape and variety of colours make it look like an embroidery pattern.









# Pudong – A Rising Star

ARTICLE BY ZHU RUI

The narrow Huangpu River divides Shanghai into two parts – Pudong and Puxi. Separated only by a river, Pudong and Puxi were once two entirely different worlds. On the bund of Puxi stood groups of buildings of multi-national styles representing the pride of Shanghai, while Pudong was a desolate land or as Shanghainese put it “a rural area”. Hence nicknames of local places such as “muddy ferry”, “garbage pile” and “foundry shop” are still reminders of Pudong’s past. A popular saying indicative of the Shanghainese attitude towards Pudong went, “A bed in Puxi is better than a room in Pudong.”

## A Springboard into the 21st Century

Today Pudong has become the hot spot of Shanghai. People now take visitors to Pudong for sightseeing instead of Nanjing Road, the City of God Temple or the Bund. Pudong has become the pride of Shanghai.

Soon after the decision to develop and open up Pudong was made, the accompanying 10 favourable policies and five exclusive policies in 1990, Pudong was immediately pushed to the forefront of China’s economic reforms. From then on, Pudong has attracted people’s attention. Although Pudong’s development has not been as sensational as the early development days of Shenzhen Special Economic Zone in Guangdong Province, or as spectacular as when 300,000 people crossed the Qiongzhou Straits to Hainan Island, Pudong has, however, quietly risen like a star in eastern Shanghai. In the short space of four years, 10 large infrastructure projects costing 20 billion yuan have been completed; and the construction of financial, bonded and two other development areas are in full swing. Commercial buildings along the Zhangyang Road, twice as grand as Nanjing Road, are under construction. Huge investments from other parts of the country and abroad are pouring into Pudong, and well-known multi-national corporations come here to invest.... In fact, today’s Pudong has become Shanghai’s new springboard into the 21st century.

## The Pearl of the Orient TV Tower

When visiting Shanghai you will inevitably be introduced to the 468-metre high TV tower which ranks the highest in Asia and third highest in the world. Familiarly known as the Pearl of the Orient, it is a landmark to the Shanghainese just as the Sydney Opera House is to Australians and the Eiffel Tower to the French. The designer’s inspiration was derived from a line written by Bai Juyi, a prominent Tang-dynasty poet. The line goes, “It was like large and small pearls dropping on a plate of jade.” Looking up from the base of the tower, you can distinctly see 11 large and small shining balls, decorating the tower. The upper and lower spheres and the space-ship simulate pearls. It takes 40 seconds by elevator to reach the upper sphere, 263 metres above ground with a diameter of 45 metres which is actually a viewing gallery. Through the glass panes of the revolving dining-hall you can see a panoramic view of Shanghai. Down below, the Huangpu River flows past like a jade ribbon. The Nanpu and Yangpu bridges arch over it like two rainbows and Pudong Park looks like an exquisite jade plate. On a fine day you can see Chongming Island and the yangtse estuary in the distance. The lower sphere with a diameter of 50 metres will become a large

amusement centre for children. Between the two large spheres are five smaller ones, these, plus the three other spheres on the supporting pillars are actually hotels in the air. Each small sphere contains five suites. At night, lit up by laser floodlights, the Pearl of the Orient TV Tower is resplendent and dazzling to the eye.

## Lujiazui – The New Bund of Pudong

Lying opposite the old financial area of the bund of Puxi, Lujiazui has slumbered for 350 years since it was named in 1544, during the Ming Dynasty. Almost overnight it has gained a new eminence.

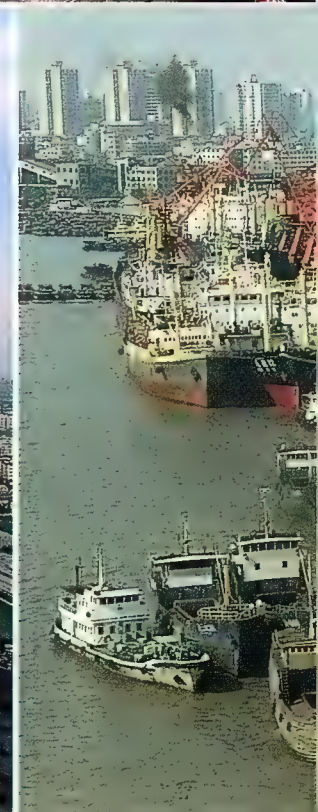


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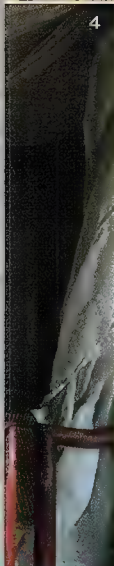
A masterpiece of Mother Nature, Pudong is shaped just like the profile of a beautiful girl, with Lujiazui as her straight nose carved out by the Huangpu River. Lujiazui is now the only development area in China that has been named “the financial and trade area”. Focusing on developing tertiary industries including finance, trade, commerce and information and consultation it will be the hub linking Pudong and Puxi, and the nucleus of the up-and-coming Pudong area. By 2010, Lujiazui is destined to become a financial centre and the symbol of a new Shanghai. In just three years of development, the area has already attracted billions of US dollars in investment, building up a commercial district along the river including the 88-storey

1. The design of “The Pearl of the Orient” TV Tower embodies the poem from Bai Juyi: “It was like large and small pearls dropping on a plate of jade” (by Xie Guanghui).
2. Luoshan Bridge is the hub of the newly-built inner ring expressway, which links Nanpu Bridge to Yangpu Bridge (by Liu Kaiming).
3. Break with the past: the laying of foundation stones is a ceremony commonly witnessed in today’s Pudong with its many new projects (by Lu Heping).









1. Lujiazui will become an international financial market in the 21st century (by Xie Guanghui).
2. Residences in Pudong have sprung up like mushrooms (by Xie Guanghui).
3. The town of Gaoqiao will soon have a facelift (by Xie Guanghui).
4. The old pace of life in Pudong, but how long will it last? (by Lu Yuanmin)
5. Once complete, Waigaoqiao Bonded Area will become the first of its kind in China's system of free trade (by Xie Guanghui).
6. A dense port on Huangpu River, Pudong (by Lu Yun)
7. Pudong's trading and shipping has brought many foreigners to the area. This restaurant is a favourite haunt of Cuban crew men and businessmen, as testified by signatures on the wall (by Lu Heping).



Jingmao Mansion, the highest commercial building in Asia and sixth highest in the world; as well as Pudong's Customs House and a riverside boulevard. With other projects under construction it will become the new bund of Pudong matching the bund of Puxi. Regarded as "The Wall Street of the East" by overseas investors, construction has started on scores of skyscrapers in the financial area: China Merchants Group, the World Financial Centre along Pudong Road South, some of them will be super-skyscrapers.

A Sino-Japanese venture, Shanghai's first Yaohan, Asia's biggest supermarket, is located on the commercial high street of Zhangyang Road. In addition, there is the internal trade area Zhuyuan and five functional districts of Longyang comprehensive commodity area. After visiting Lujiazui, an overseas banker forecasted that it would be the international capital market of the 21st century.

## The Simultaneous Development of Commercial and Tourist Areas

The Waigaoqiao Bonded Area came into operation in 1993 the first of its kind in China, offering free trade and processing for exports. The 10-square-kilometre bonded area is now enclosed by silvery steel wires. To enter you have to pass through procedures at Customs House. Currently the processing district is the most prosperous in Waigaoqiao with over 90 per cent of the land rented out or transferred and hundreds of overseas investment projects have been started. Moreover, many of the overseas investors such as JVC have successfully expanded their operations and presence in the district. Particularly noteworthy is the Shanghai Park View Hotel, a Shanghai-Hong Kong joint venture based on Hong Kong's famous Park View Hotel. Upon completion it will comprise a five-star hotel with over a dozen commercial and residential buildings providing a place for offices, recreation and residents.



Today, old hands of the international commercial circle are gathering at the Jinqiao Export Processing District. On average, each square metre has attracted an investment of over US\$900, topping the list of China's development zones. Colourful banners and exotic buildings can be seen everywhere such as Mitsubishi, Siemens, Bayer.... Investors from Hong Kong, Australia and Taiwan are particularly interested in this area and have invested in over 50 of the 200 plus projects under construction.

Just as people are focussing their attention on financial trade and high-tech areas, the Huaxia Commercial and Tourist Area is being mapped out. In the not too distant future there will emerge in the coastal Shanjia Harbour area, a high-standard Huaxia Beach Tourist Area with a water paradise covering an area of 150 hectares, and seaside villas totalling over 100 hectares. There will also be an Huaxia Commercial district occupying 62 hectares and a huge Miniature Entertainment Centre taking prominent historical figures and legendary stories as its themes.

A bridge for Shanghai and the rest of China to march into the 21st century, the developing Pudong will once again fill the Shanghaiese with pride.

Translated by Anne Yan





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# Unusual Tombs of Ethnic Minorities

ARTICLE BY JIANG SHUREN



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1. The tombs of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang convey a feeling of mystery (by Yang Yankang).
2. The tombs of the Uygur nationality in Kuqa are built like houses for the living and are constantly maintained in perfect condition (by Chan Yat Nin).
3. Simple floral designs painted on the walls of a tomb chamber of the Tajik nationality (by Du Younong)
4. A whitewashed three-legged tomb marker shaped like a horse saddle stands in front of a Tajik tomb which looks like a castle. This is a special feature of the Tajik tombs (by Du Younong).



**X**injiang Uygur Autonomous Region is a land full of wonders. In ancient times, a great number of small independent regimes, or kingdoms, existed here and later mysteriously disappeared. Although in ruins the capital cities of many of these kingdoms still stand in the desert. The best-known are Gaochang and Niya. As a result, tourists who come across roofless buildings or broken walls in the empty desert often believe they have discovered the remains of an ancient city. But they are often wrong – what they actually see are the tombs of ethnic minorities.

### A Unique Sight

There is such a group of tombs in a deserted area near the small Tajik village of Tiznapu close to the Sino-Pakistan Highway in Taxkorgan. Although the tombs are in ruins their round domes



and whitewashed broken walls still exist. Shallow niches carved into the wall had been painted in red and black but there are no idols inside. Painted on the broken walls are pictures of the sun shedding bright rays, plants and flowers, upright human figures, donkeys on the move, ornaments and colourful gowns favoured by Tajik women as well as the Riwap guitar, which Tajik men often carried with them wherever they went. The pictures were painted in a rustic style with a rich flavour of life.

Also close to the Sino-Pakistan Highway is a tomb belonging to the Uygur nationality and bearing very distinctive features. Buried inside must have been someone who had a certain prestige and influence in both the religious and secular circles during his life time. As within the wall surrounding the tomb wooden stakes were planted into the ground, passers-by could hang a sheep's horn or tie a branch or ribbon in respect of the dead person. As time passed, the objects tied onto the stakes present a unique sight and have taken on the meaning of wishing for thriving livestock.

### The Dead Still Present

In Kuqa, the tombs of the Uygur nationality are perfectly preserved. They look as if they were newly built. The building above the tomb chamber looks just like an ordinary house complete with windows and a round chimney on the roof. The inside walls are completely covered with pictures of crops, animals, human figures and floral designs.

On the way to Kanas, we saw some most unusual tombs typical of Kazak tombs in the Altay area. Instead of earthen or stone walls,

the structures were built with round or square cut logs in the shape of a tent or a wooden house. There is a practical reason for this as the rainfall is plentiful in this area, so earth and sand could easily be washed away by a heavy rain. Logs last much longer.

Looking at these tombs of ethnic minorities, one feels that it is their belief that the dead are still around and that they have only changed their abode. It seems they are still herding animals, planting crops, accompanied by sunlight and the living.

### The Dead Face Mecca

After the 10th century, most of the Chinese ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, whether they are Uygur, Tajik, Kazak, Uzbek, Kirgiz or Tartar, were converted to Islamism. The style of their tombs is, therefore, more or less the same. The tomb chamber must be rectangular, longer in the north-south direction. First a pit is dug, then a cave is excavated into one wall of the pit. When the cave is dug, someone close to the dead, usually the son or son-in-law, lies in it first to see if it is comfortable. For some ethnic minorities, there is no side cave, but there are strict specifications concerning the depth of the tomb.

According to Islamic teachings, the dead must be buried within three days of death. Before burial, the body must be washed, shaved and the nails must be cut. An Ahung (Islamic leader of prayer) smears the lips of the dead with holy water and the washing of the body is performed by a professional religious person (or in the case of some ethnic groups by a close relative of the same sex). The body is washed three times with clean water, wrapped in several layers of white binding, then placed in the cave without a coffin or funeral objects. Their face lying to the west, eternally facing towards the Islamic holy city of Mecca.

### Religions Merge

Looking at the tombs, one finds that the tomb structure above ground and the wall paintings do not conform with Islamic teachings and cultural traditions. This is indeed an interesting phenomenon. Muslims believe that there is no true god other than the supreme deity Allah so *The Koran* prohibits any form of idol worship. Therefore, no pictures or sculptures of human figures and other creatures would normally be found in Islamic religious or secular buildings and white alone is honoured as the purest colour. Therefore, the colourful pictures of plants, flowers, paintings of human figures and domestic animals in the tombs of the ethnic groups in Xinjiang would never be permitted by Islamic teachings. Although there are no idols in the niches in the walls, the niches imply that deities exist in the hearts of the believers. This controversial phenomenon or conceptional conflict has aroused the interest of many scholars of religion and folk customs.

For more than 1,000 years before Islamism spread to Xinjiang, Buddhism and Shamanism had been followed by the people in that region. Buddhism, in particular, is a polytheist religion which practises idol worship and believes in the existence of the soul and the nether world. Long after Buddhism gave way to Islamism, it still has its influence in the life of the ethnic minorities. Moreover, as people part for ever with a dear one, they are still emotionally attached to the dead. They therefore took great pains to build a tomb in the hope that he or she may enjoy happiness in the next world. The unusual tombs in Xinjiang are, therefore, the result of a merging of religious ideas.

Translated by Tang Bowen





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1. This age-old tomb closely resembles the dwelling houses found among the ruins of ancient cities in Xinjiang (by Yang Yankang).
2. The niches in the walls, although without idols, convey the Buddhist idea that "the Buddha exists in the mind" (by Du Younong).
3. A Kazak tomb is built with neatly cut logs in the shape of a tent (by Du Younong).
4. Pictures of the sun, human figures, mule and the Riwap guitar on the wall of a tomb chamber express a love for life but are against the Islamic cultural traditions (by Du Younong).
5. In memory of the dead, sheep horns are hung on wooden stakes in front of the tomb of an influential and respected Muslim. This is a Shamanistic practice (by Du Younong).
6. Not only are the tomb chamber walls painted with pictures of plants, flowers and animals, but the ceiling is also decorated with colourful designs (by Yang Yankang).

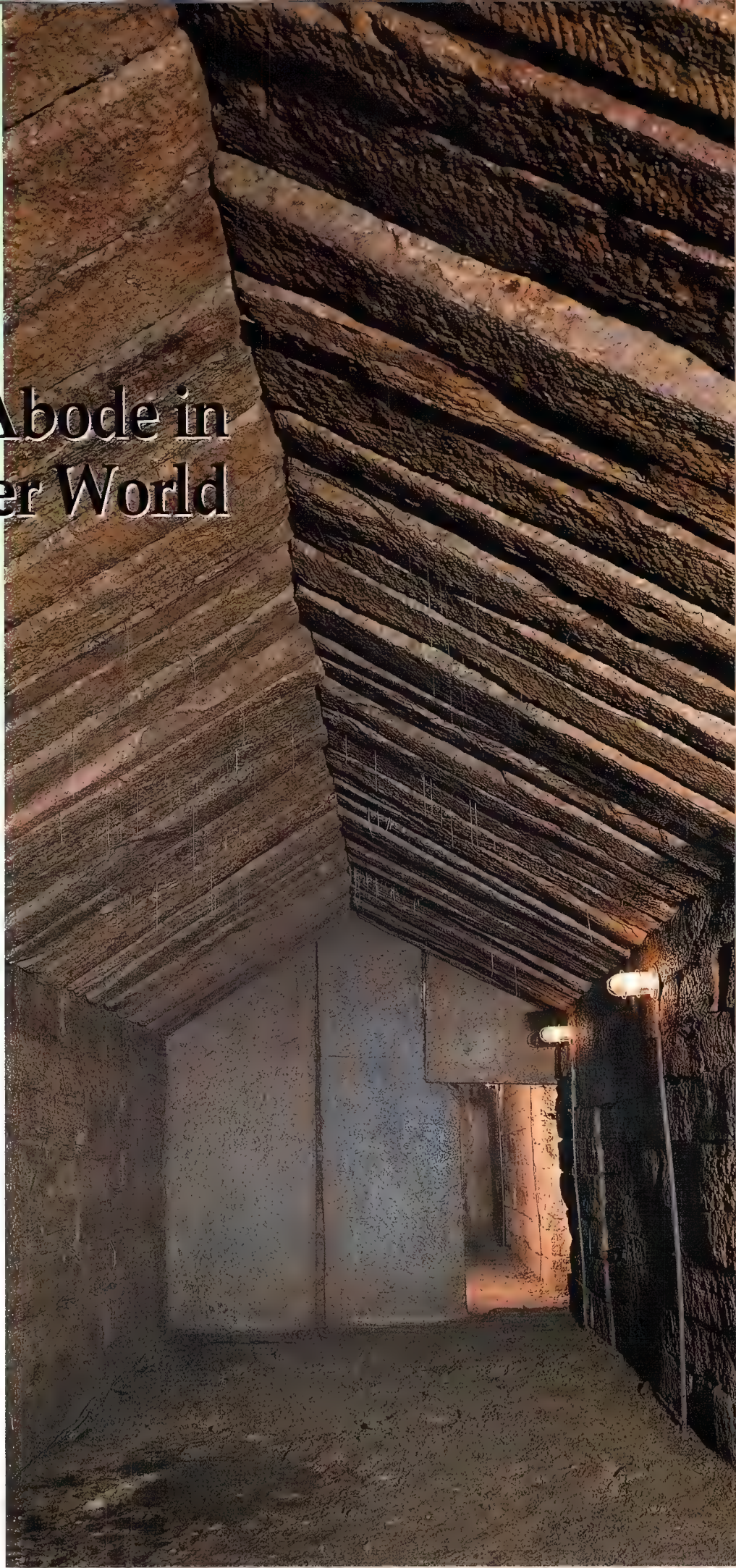


# A Prince's Abode in the Nether World

– Stone Chambers  
in a Han Tomb at  
Dongshan

PHOTOS BY ZHENG YUNFENG  
TEXT BY ZHONG XIN

*The palace rooms were  
solidly constructed to last  
tens of thousands of years.*





There is a village named Dongshan in Tongshan County about 10 kilometres to the north of the city of Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province. Located on the southern shore of Lake Huaihe and the northern side of the Grand Canal that links Beijing with Hangzhou, the village was little known in the past. After the excavation of the tomb of the Prince of Chu of the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24) on Rocky Hill on the northern side of the village, the village became famous overnight. The prince's underground palace is drawing a large number of visitors to the village every day.

### An Extraordinary Burial Place

When the Han tomb on North Dongshan Mountain was excavated, archaeologists were greatly surprised by what they had found. The underground palace in the tomb has many rooms and is complicated in structure. Even the burial custom is unlike that in other tombs. The tomb is the only one of its kind so far discovered in China.

The entire Han tomb was hewn into North Dongshan Mountain. The underground palace is more than 500 square metres in floor space. The various rooms total more than 320 square metres. The ceilings of the eight main



*This strange gilded beast-shaped box unearthed from the tomb bears a dignified imperial air.*



*A "stone well" in the underground palace*



*The gate to the underground palace at the time when it was excavated in 1986*



palace rooms are supported by stone columns which are parts of the rocky mountain. These stone columns give the palace rooms a serene and imposing look. There are 11 side palaces and a small side room filled with pottery statues of performing musicians.

The largest palace room is 46.5 square metres in floor space and three metres from floor to ceiling. It is larger and its ceiling is higher than the living room in an ordinary house.


### A Palace Washed with Cinnabar

The eight main rooms in the tomb and the dozens of metres of passages linking them together were all painted with cinnabar, then a layer of raw lacquer and another layer of cinnabar. As a result, the ceilings, walls and floor are all a mysterious red in colour. Red was in ancient times the exorcist colour, but the cinnabar wash was mainly for the purpose of protecting the underground palace against corrosion and moisture because cinnabar, known as solid mercury, is composed largely of mercury. According to a preliminary calculation, it requires at least half a ton of cinnabar to paint the entire underground palace.

### A Tomb Complete with Well, Kitchen and Toilet

Archaeologists conclude that the owner of the underground palace was one of the three Princes of Chu – Liu Jiao, Liu Yingke or Liu Wu – who ruled over a vassal state in Pengcheng (today's Xuzhou) between 201 and 145 B.C. during the early Western Han Dynasty. Since the person buried in the tomb was a prince, the tomb chambers are very complicated in structure. In addition to the front chamber, rear chamber and side rooms, there are also a toilet and a kitchen. The toilet is divided into compartments, one for men and the other for women. There is a urine sink in the middle. On the side which forms the "living quarters" are a stable, a kitchen and a stone well. The prince seemed to have arranged every thing for his abode in the nether world. Almost everything he had during his life time could be found in the underground palace.

### Valuable Artifacts

During the past 2,000 and more years, the underground palace has been robbed many times and lost many of the treasures stored in it. A great number of valuable artifacts, however, still remained when the tomb was being excavated. Among them were jade plates that made up a burial suit, gold, silver and bronze ware, a great many uniquely shaped and lively sculptured pottery figurines painted in colour, thousands of the "Half Ounce" coins of the Qin and Han dynasties, 10 official seals of the Prince of Chu and 10 official seals of county governments under his jurisdiction. 

Translated by Tang Bowen



*The modelling of this Western Han jade phoenix reminds one of the Chu culture of the Eastern Zhou period.*



*The underground palace of the Prince of Chu was hewn into a rocky mountain. It is complicated in structure but spacious inside. A man can move about in it without bending his head.*





*Jade carving had already attained certain perfection during the Western Han Dynasty.*



*This bronze seal of the Prince of Chu serves to identify the owner of the tomb.*











2

# Sacred Centre of the Jonong Sect of Tibetan Buddhism

## – Ancient Monasteries in Aba, Western Sichuan

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XUE HUAKE



Three seven-storey stupas stand between the three great monasteries. Their unique architectural style is rarely seen in other Lamaist temples. This ancient pine was planted when Qurki Monastery was built in 1307. After experiencing so many changes, it died quietly last year. Chanwa Monastery in Middle Zamtang has been renovated by artisans from Dongyang in Zhejiang Province. The statute of a large Buddha is accompanied by many smaller ones less than a foot high. This arrangement is unique to the monasteries in Middle Zamtang.







**M**iddle Zamtang, a small Tibetan village lies about 40 kilometres from the county town of Zamtang and is located between the borders of Qinghai, Sichuan and Gansu provinces. It is so remote one has to travel 210 kilometres from Barkam, capital city of Aba County, to get there. Because of this it has made an ideal location for the Jonong Sect of Tibetan Buddhism, a very small sect, trying to escape repression and persecution throughout history.

Close to the village of Middle Zamtang lie three old monasteries: Qurki, Chanwa and Zebuki, Qurki being the oldest, with a history of 600 years.

It is said that the first-generation Tulku of Qurki Monastery was named Ninqinba. At the age of 15 he travelled to Tibet to study the scriptures in a monastery of the Jonong Sect. Upon completion of his studies, his teacher gave him an elephant and a donkey and told him to go eastward and he was not to settle down until the elephant refused to go forward, the conch on the back of the elephant sounded by itself and the donkey brayed. On this spot, his teacher told him, he was to build a new monastery of the Jonong Sect.

As instructed Ninqinba left Tibet, together with his elephant and donkey he climbed over snow-covered mountains and travelled through desolate and uninhabited areas and finally arrived at Middle Zamtang deep in the Aba grassland. Here everything happened just as his teacher had predicted.

The doctrine of "objective nothingness" advocated by the Jonong Sect was condemned as heresy by the orthodox sects. The three monasteries in Middle Zamtang, however, have been upholding this doctrine since the day Ninqinba founded the first Jonong monastery to the present date. According to the doctrine of "objective nothingness", everything in the world has its own attributes. Because people cannot understand them correctly in the process of recognition, they impose many artificial differences upon them. Based on this doctrine, it is believed that every living being in the world has the nature of Buddha, which is not different from that of the Buddha himself. Since the doctrine may "mislead" people into negating the absolute authority of the Buddha, the Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhism condemned it as "unorthodox heresy". Over the centuries, the Jonong Sect has been banned and discriminated against to the verge of distinction, except for a few temples and monasteries located in remote or desolate areas.

The Jonong Sect attaches great importance to Buddha's birthday celebrations and to the display of giant portraits of the founder of the Jonong Sect. Today, the monasteries in Middle Zamtang have become the largest and most orthodox establishments of the sect where more than 1,500 lamas pursue the Jonong truth and are home to many valuable Buddhist relics. Qurki Monastery alone has more than 50 stupas of Tulkus made of silver and gold and a large number of Thangka pictures (fine brushwork pictures painted in rich colours) of a distinctive style. The most valuable are patchwork pictures made of colourful brocade.



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1. Upon the death of a Tulku of the Jonong Sect, his body was placed in the sitting position in a stupa of silver and gold. There are more than 50 such stupas in the monasteries in Middle Zamtang.

2. Suspended in front of the statue of Buddha in the main hall of Qurki Monastery is a set of armour worn by ancient warriors. It is believed to be a holy object offering protection, but none of the senior or junior lamas in the monastery were able to tell where it came from.

3. Zaxilarang Temple in Middle Zamtang was the abode of the eighth-generation Tulku of the Jonong Sect. Though small, the temple is nearly 700 years old. Even this picture of transmigration on the wall is more than 500 years old.

4. Middle Zamtang is a large village with more than 1,000 inhabitants. Every morning and evening, a steady stream of believers walk in circles around the monasteries reciting scriptures and doing obeisance.



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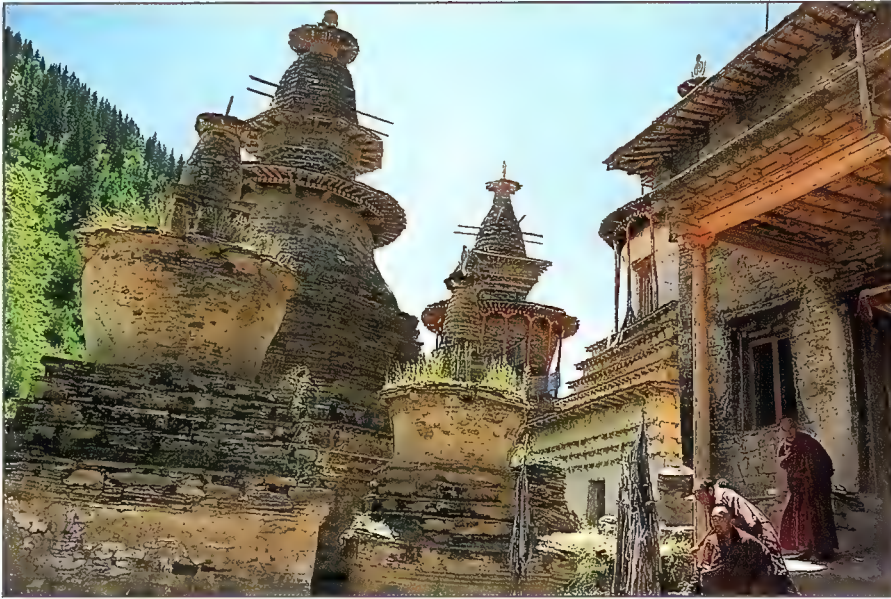


Each year on the birthday and day of nirvana of Sakyamuni, which falls on the 15th day of the fourth month in the Tibetan calendar, a large-scale display of Buddha is held in Middle Zamtang. Fifteen large and small Thangka pictures are exhibited in specially made wooden frames. The largest is a portrait of Genmuqing, founder of the Jonong Sect, which is 33 metres high and 28 metres wide. On that day, thousands of pilgrims from Qinghai, Gansu and Sichuan provinces gather to admire the giant portrait of the founder.

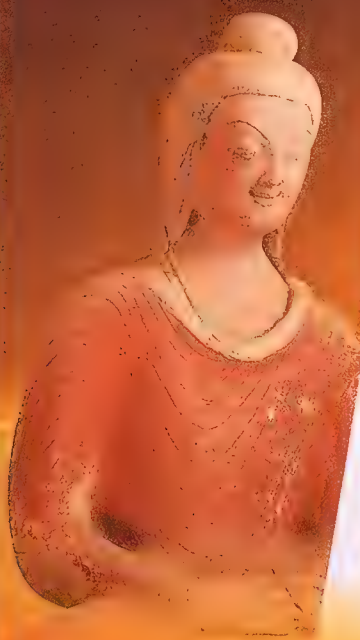
Translated by Tang Bowen

1. Bangtuo Monastery, a Buddhist establishment of the Red Sect, is located in Rongdamu Township, 3 kilometres north of Middle Zamtang. Known among the local Tibetan people as the Grassy Platform Temple, the monastery is surrounded by 31 stupas. The largest ones have steps leading to the top of the stupas and pictures of the Buddha and Buddhism painted on the inside walls.

2. In the rear yard of Bangtuo Monastery a "stone hill" was built with more than 20,000 pieces of slate, and each slate finely carved with the text of scriptures in the Tibetan language. It is said that over 200 years ago, the Abbot of the monastery employed stone masons from many places to carve the full text of the "Great Pitaka Sutra". This "Great Pitaka Sutra" carved on stone is now protected by Sichuan Province as an important cultural relic.







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Cigarettes



Dunhuang Grottoes, built up from AD 386-1367 (the Northern Wei Dynasty - the Yuan Dynasty), are among the greatest existing treasure troves of Buddhist art in the world. Dunhuang Cigarettes, one of the famous brand manufactured by Shanghai Cigarette Factory (1925-1995), China.



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Bean



Yu Qingcheng at his studio

Whispering



Strumming with Joy



# Yu Qingcheng Clay Figurine Exhibition in Tianjin

TEXT BY  
HUANG YANHONG

**Bean** An extremely old lady is bending over to pick up a bean. "She might fall and never be able to get up again," explained Mr. Yu. This is the artist's most favourite piece.

**Strumming with Joy** Holding a large cob of corn, which serves as a musical instrument, the old farmer strums the corn kernels to provide a silent "Song of a Bumper Harvest".

**Whispering** Old folks usually talk a lot! These two old men whisper to each other exchanging interesting tales and revealing traces of childishness.

**Red String** A very old man is tying a red string, perhaps, to his great grandson's plait. The red string and the plait are rendered in one, which connect the very old and the very young. The baby stares curiously through the old sheepskin coat, admiring the wonder of the outside world.

**Two Small Flowers** This theme on aged people in the country is seldom dealt with. The lady sits cross-legged with a mirror in one hand. Her old husband is behind her, trying to place a small flower on her head. This sculpture really warmed the cockles of my heart.

Mr. Yu Qingcheng is modest. When we parted, he said that anyone could make these figurines, given his own situation. Artists who have been to the exhibition have made such remarks as "Rodin of the East", "A three dimensional Picasso". When the king of boxing Mohammed Ali, was presented with one of Mr. Yu Qingcheng's figurines, he made the world class remark: "A gift so precious as if for God."



*Red String*



The clay figurines of Yu Qingcheng are often talked about, we were captivated the moment we stepped inside the exhibition room in the city of Tianjin. Some of us were even mesmerized.

This is a very different world of art. It is hard to describe one's feelings about the workmanship, concept, style and technique except that they defy description. They could not be judged and assessed in conventional terms. The work is based on the trials and tribulations and inner feelings of the artist, and are diligently fired by inspiration and talent.

We met the artist, Mr. Yu Qingcheng, an ordinary-looking man, so plain that some people can hardly conceive him to be the artist. We talked for a while and learned that this man went through various tribulations during his many years in the pursuit of art. He was the son of a farmer, a shepherd who learned to fumble clay into figurines while tending his flocks. Our respect grew for this outstanding country artist.

All the works have country life as their theme. There is a story behind every piece of work, which conveys a certain emotion, a feeling or a symbol.

**A Stream** The nude country ladies with exaggerated figures are having fun by a stream. Behind their hearty laughter lies a substantial measure of bitterness and hardship on their part, "It is time that these ladies laughed," said the artist.

**My Home Is at the Loess Plateau** This name coincides with a popular song. A mother and her two children sing at the top of their voices, totally lost in their own ballad. They must be engrossed in the last words of the verse.



# Zhuge Town in Zhejiang

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI







In honour of Zhuge Liang, the Wujia Opera Troupe of Lanxi County staged a performance of the opera "Zhuge Liang Manoeuvres His Army" at the memorial hall.







**B**y an imperial edict issued in 930, Zhuge Li, a 15th-generation scion of the celebrated strategist Zhuge Liang, was transferred from Chengdu, Sichuan Province to Zhejiang, where he served successively as the magistrate of Shaoxing and Shouchang counties. In the twilight years of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), Zhuge Mengcao, one of the strategist's 25th-generation descendants moved from Shouchang to Lanxi County where he settled in a tiny town at the foot of the Gaolong Hill. In the intervening 700 years or more the town flourished to become home to another branch of Zhuge Liang's descendants.

The town, aptly named Zhuge Town, is situated where the three cities of Hangzhou, Jinhua and Quzhou share a common boundary. It is also where State Highways 320 and 330 crossed paths. Climbing up the Gaolong Hill along a cement footpath I discovered that the town nestles among a terrain which resembles a giant wok. At the bottom of the "wok" is the Bell Pond, which is surrounded by Dagong Hall, Xuepei Hall and dozens of residences dating back to the Ming and Qing dynasties. The entire town is laid out providently, with eight alleyways stretching out radially like spokes of a wheel. The layout turns out to be a replica of Zhuge Liang's Formation of Eight Triagrams, with nine multiple lanes and eight gates.

The unique layout of Zhuge Town never fails to hold experts and scholars enthralled. More than 50 ancient structures in town have been designated as important subjects for researchers.

### Zhugue Liang Commemorated Twice a Year

Early on a rainy day, I entered this legendary town by a flagged road which has grown green and dank with age. Zhuge Shaoxian, vice-director of Dagong Hall, first showed me to the ancestral hall dedicated to the memory of Prime Minister Zhuge Liang. The hall, built during the Ming Dynasty some three centuries ago, is where the townspeople gather to pay tribute to their ancestor twice a year – in autumn to mourn his death and in spring to celebrate his birthday. The hall, with its 52 chambers sprawling over an area of 1,400 square metres, is in fairly good condition. With the rear hall looming large in the background, the front hall bears an air of classic sanctity under a roof which is embellished with upturned corners. A stone stairway leads to the drum and bell towers. A stone tablet in honour of Zhuge Liang, or the Marquis of Wu, used to stand between the towers; it was torn down the previous year to make room for a six-metre-tall statue of the prime minister with his trademark plume fan in hand. In front of the statue two square tables are placed together, with an incense-burner flanked by two red candles.

The day I was there the tables were piled high with sacrificial objects and dishes. The hall was filled with members of the Zhuge clan, waiting for the annual autumn memorial service of the death of the Marquis of Wu to begin. After a dozen or so clan representatives filed by and bowed long and deep before the statue, an elderly man started reciting the memorial message.

1. Dagong Hall, the oldest in town, was built in the Ming Dynasty.

2. There is an unmistakable rapport between townspeople and Zhuge Liang's impersonator.

3. This family is high on the family tree of living members of the Zhuge clan. The sons of the old lady are 43rd-generation scions.

4. Situated in the centre of the town, the Bell Pond is where townspeople draw water for drinking and washing.



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That very day, the anniversary of the death of Zhuge Liang was also observed in Nanyang in Henan Province and Hanzhong in Shaanxi Province. Apart from the autumn ceremony, the spring ceremony falls on the 14th day of the fourth lunar month, his birthday.

### Letter to Son Served as Family Code of Conduct

At noon a bus arrived. Twenty or so actors and actresses from the local opera troupe emerged; they immediately started moving stage property into Dagong Hall.

The hall was built during the Ming Dynasty some 500 years ago. Covering a floorspace of 700 square metres, it is the only structure south of the Yangtse River dedicated to the memory of Zhuge Liang. Its double-eaved portal stands as tall as 10 metres, and the sign hanging above the gate is inscribed with six Chinese characters which read "Imperial Mandated Gate of Righteousness". Above the sign is a plaque which bears dragon patterns. The board and the plaque were awarded by Emperor Yingzong in 1439 during the Ming Dynasty, to commend Zhuge Yanxiang for his generous donation of rice to the relief of victims of a natural disaster. The walls that flank the front gate are inscribed with two large characters which mean "royalty" and "gallantry".

A screen erected behind the front gate is mounted with a painting depicting Liu Bei paying three visits to Zhuge Liang at his thatched hut. The side walls of the hall are graced with ink-and-colour paintings depicting the exploits of the Marquis of Wu during his lifetime, such as "Kong Ming Debates the Southern Officials", "Borrowing Cao Cao's Arrows Through a Ruse", "Liu Bei Entrusted His Heir Apparent to the Prime Minister at Baidi City" and "Capturing Meng Huo Seven Times". The six wooden panels that form the entrance to the parlour of the hall are inscribed with the full text of the Marquis of Wu's letter to his son Zhuge Zhan. His descendants regard the letter as their family code of conduct.

The latticed door leading to the last chamber of the hall is flanked by two paintings created respectively during the Ming and Qing dynasties. One is "Map of Fixed Abodes of the Zhuge Clan in Gaolong" and the other "Eight Scenic Spots in Gaolong". The chamber is where China's only copy of the Zhuge family genealogy is kept. The 39-volume book, thread-bound in an octavo format, records the lives of the Zhuges of various generations beginning from Zhuge Liang's father Zhuge Gui. The book, which was originally kept in the home of Zhuge Zongyi, a 45th-generation scion, furnishes a wealth of information on the study of Zhuge Liang and his descendants.

### The Perennial Hero on Stage

At one o'clock in the afternoon, a cacophony of gongs and drums drew all the townspeople to the hall, where a variety show of opera episodes was to take place in the centre of the floor. Zhuge Liang was the hero in all the shows, which captured such scenes as his services being courted by Liu Bei for three times in his thatched hut and his hot debate with southern officials, all taken from the Chinese classic the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. Each episode was short but well performed and the actor in the role of Zhuge Liang never failed to bring the house down whenever he appeared on stage. The audience was so enthralled that they kept shifting their "seats" towards the centre of the floor. Soon the "stage" became so narrow that the actors and actresses had to elbow their way out of the crowd and turn the entire hall into a stage. The paintings on the surrounding walls served as the most appropriate stage setting. Excited by what they saw, the audience threw off their habit of shy reserve and mobbed the actor who played the role of Zhuge Liang.



1. Education is a cherished tradition in town. Here, despite his advanced age as an octogenarian, Zhuge Yuhe feels obliged to teach his great-grandson how to write.
2. A sports meet at the Zhuge Primary School
3. On the day of mourning Zhuge Liang's death, his descendants held a special ceremony in the hall dedicated to his memory.
4. Preparations for the ritual had begun several days beforehand.
5. Townspeople prepare a dragon head to be used on the day to honour the memory of Zhuge Liang.





3



5





1



2



A mother went so far as to deliver her infant baby from her bosoms into the hands of the "Marquis of Wu". It seemed history had staged a comeback after an absence of more than 1,000 years and the entire hall bubbled with jubilation.

### Strategist's Scions Turned Doctors

Having left Dagong Hall I visited a traditional medicinal training class held in a nearby run-down house. The dozen or so trainees were all young men, learning the ropes from two tutors held in high esteem in town as veteran doctors. The training classes, which started more than a decade ago, has served its part to make up for the country's shortage of trained pharmacists by supplying more than 180 graduates to traditional Chinese pharmacies in Hangzhou, Shanghai and Lanxi.

Dropping in on a number of families in town, I was amazed to learn that virtually all the inhabitants were well-versed in the use of medicinal herbs. Even a toddler can recite the Verse on Herbal Properties, and almost all the families keep one classical medical treatise or another, among them Compendium of Material Medica and Golden Reference to Medical Traditions.

Zhuge Da, a 50th-generation scion of the Zhuge family, was a doctor by family tradition. When asked why medicine has become such a widespread passion in town, he cited what the Marquis of Wu had said before he breathed his last, "If you cannot become a prime minister you should at least turn yourself into a good doctor." The fact that Zhuge Liang, apart from being a brilliant strategist, also excelled in medicine has had great impact on his descendants. In Chinese history, Lanxi and Cixi counties in Zhejiang Province and Jixi County in Anhui Province were known as the "Top Three Capitals of Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine". In Lanxi, Zhuge Liang's descendants once dominated local business in medicinal herbs. The "Zhuge Liang's Powder Medicine for the Army" and the "Sleeping Dragon Bolus", concocted by his descendants according to ancient formulas, are still selling briskly after all those years.

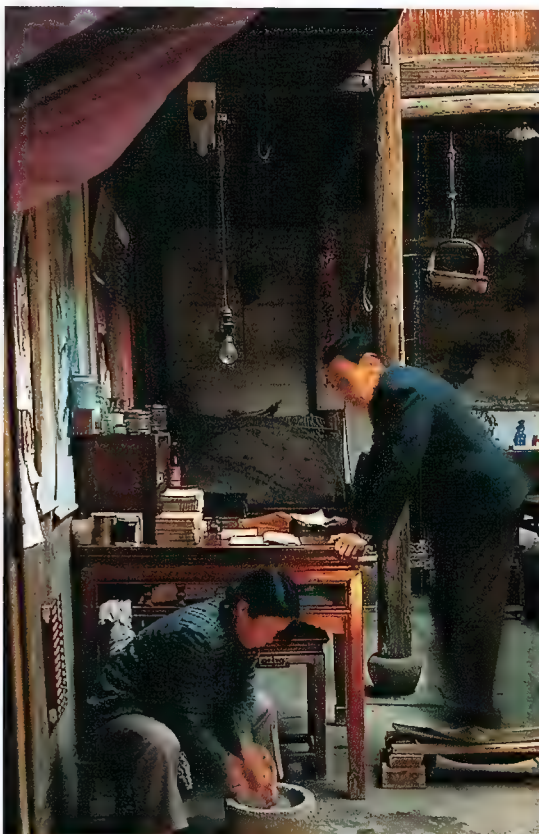
### Zhuge Town, a Famous Landmark

Before I said good-bye to the Zhuge Town, Zhuge Shaoxian gave me a precious gift, a thick mimeographed reference book about the town, now more than 700 years old. In 1990, when a call was issued to raise money for refurbishing Dagong Hall, members of the Zhuge clan living at home and abroad responded promptly. A year later, the hall took on a new look. The discovery of the Zhuge Family Genealogy in 1992 hit the headlines throughout China and instantly propelled the town to national fame. Since then experts and scholars have kept coming in droves on fact-finding tours. In 1993, the town was the venue of the Seventh National Symposium on Zhuge Liang, and scholars who came from as far as Japan and Taiwan joined their mainland counterparts in a discussion on the relationship between the strategist's scions and the Zhuge Town. Today the town has been listed as a major historical and cultural landmark south of the Yangtse River.

Translated by Ling Yuan



3



4

1. Buildings in the Zhuge Town bear a distinctive Ming and Qing dynasty architectural style.
2. This shop specializes in objects for mourning and wedding ceremonies.
3. On her 70th birthday, this old lady is almost inundated in a flood of gifts.
4. Medicine is a shared passion among members of the Zhuge Town. Here, an old man prepares medicinal herbs with his daughter-in-law.





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13. Hong Kong — Guilin — Hong Kong

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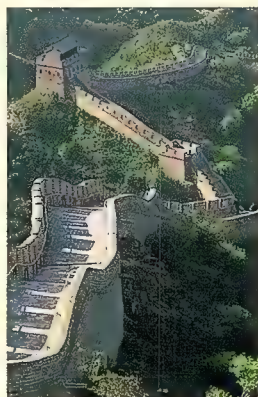
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Air Fare: \$ 1,170 Special rates: \$ 1,112

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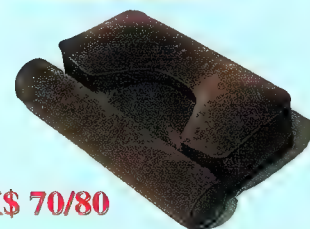
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#### Linfen Hotel (East & West Building)

臨汾賓館 (東樓、西樓)

53 Jiefang Road West, Linfen, Shanxi 041000

Tel: (0375) 214346

GM: Guo Jinde

62 rooms and suites

Located 1.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, business centre, clinic, beauty salon

### Taiyuan, Shanxi

#### Bingzhou Hotel

井州賓館



32 Yingze Street, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001

Tel: (0351) 4042111 Fax: (0351) 4033540

GM: Liu Zhonggui

320 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, steam bath

#### Shanxi Grand Hotel

山西大酒店



5 Xinjian Road South, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001

Tel: (0351) 4043901 Fax: (0351) 4043525

GM: Hu Xiren

166 rooms and suites

Located 13 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

#### Shanxi Sports Guest House

山西體育賓館

9 Sports Road, Dayingpan, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030012

Tel: (0351) 7072357 Fax: (0351) 7040569

156 rooms and suites

Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, karaoke, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, facilities for the handicapped

#### Yingze Hotel

迎澤賓館

51 Yingze Street, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030025

Tel: (0351) 4043211 Fax: (0351) 4042941

GM: Tan Zhoujun

443 rooms and suites

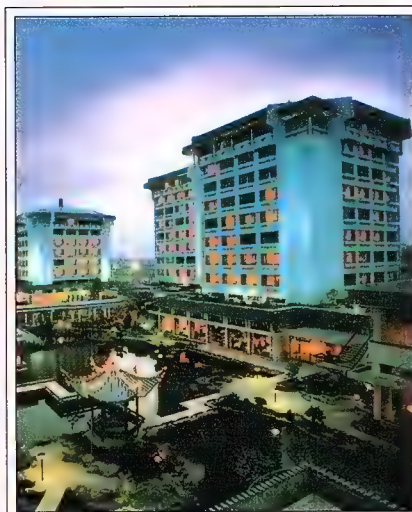
Located 17 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath

### Hangzhou, Zhejiang

#### Dragon Hotel

黃龍飯店



Shuguang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 5154488 Telex: 351048 DRAGN CN

Fax: 5158090

Opened 21 April 1988

564 rooms and suites

Located 14 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, business centre, conference room, karaoke, disco, ballroom, swimming pool, billiard room, tennis courts, beauty salon, shopping arcade, massage, sauna, babysitting service, bicycle rental

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53 Pinghai Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

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Opened 6 October 1986

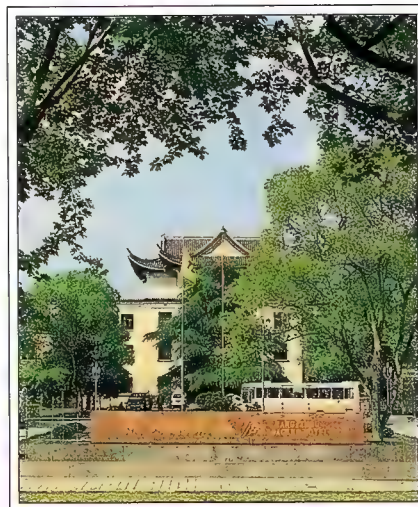
224 rooms and suites

Located in the city centre, 14 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, disco, art gallery, beauty salon, massage, multi-function room, shopping arcade, karaoke, bar

#### Huangang Hotel

花港飯店



4 Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 771324 Telex: 35007 HUAJG CN

Fax: 772481

Opened 1958

218 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, karaoke, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon, ballroom, gym, massage

#### Huajiashan Hotel

花家山賓館

12 Faxiang Lane, Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 771224 Telex: 35063 HJSGN CN

Fax: 773980

Opened 18 October 1981

196 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, shopping arcade, beauty salon, massage, conference room, health club, karaoke, multi-function hall

#### Hangzhou Tower

杭州大廈

1 Wulin Square, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: 553911 Telex: 351008 HZB CN

Fax: 570062

139 rooms and suites

Located in the city centre, 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, shopping arcade, exhibition centre, business centre, billiard room, karaoke, gym, dance hall, clinic, beauty salon, massage



### Hangzhou Zhijiang Hotel

杭州之江飯店

84 Moganshan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310005  
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Opened 28 November 1990  
600 rooms and 20 suites  
Located 20 km from airport, 12 km from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, banquet halls, business centre, dance hall, billiard room, function rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, bar, gym, clinic, beauty salon

### International Mansion

國際大廈

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Tel: 556224, 555724 Telex: 35029 BZIB CN  
Fax: 574201  
296 rooms and suites  
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Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, exhibition hall, bar, coffee shop, ballroom, karaoke, shopping arcade, gym, clinic, beauty salon, facilities for the handicapped

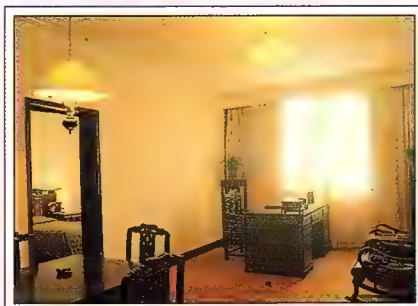
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華僑飯店

15 Hubin Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006  
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### Shangri-La Hotel

香格里拉飯店



78 Beishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007  
Tel: 777951 Telex: 35005/6 HOTCH CN  
Fax: 773545  
387 rooms  
Located 40 minutes from airport  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting and banquet rooms, business centre, beauty salon, shopping arcade, ballroom, function rooms

### Wang Hu Hotel

望湖賓館

2 Huancheng Road West, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006  
Tel: 771024, 771942 Telex: 351029 WHBG CN  
Fax: (0571) 773027  
Opened 17 March 1986  
369 rooms and suites  
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, karaoke, billiard room, dance hall

### Xin Qiao Hotel

新橋飯店

176 Jiefang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310001  
Tel: 776688 Telex: 351028 XQH CN  
Fax: 722768  
Opened 28 March 1986  
342 rooms and 14 suites  
Located 12 km from airport, 2 km from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon, multi-function hall, billiard room, ballroom, coffee shop, bar, massage, babysitting service, facilities for the handicapped

### Xihu State Hotel

西湖國賓館

7 Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007  
Tel: 776889 Telex: 35004 BTHX CN  
Fax: 772348  
113 rooms and suites  
Located 7 km from the city centre, 20 km from airport, 9 km from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, bar, coffee shop, disco, shopping arcade, beauty salon, cinema, massage

## Ningbo, Zhejiang

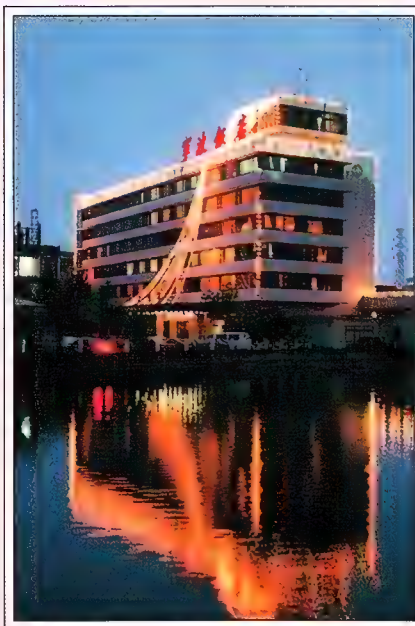
### Asia Garden Hotel

亞洲華園賓館

Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010  
Tel: 7366888 Telex: 37020 AGHZJ CN  
Fax: 7361238, 7366554  
Opened 18 July 1987  
190 rooms and suites  
Located 15 km from airport, 1 km from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, conference rooms, business centre, disco, coffee shop, health club, shopping arcade, multi-function hall, karaoke, beauty salon, bar

### Ningbo Hotel

寧波飯店



65 Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010  
Tel: (0574) 7366334 Telex: 37019 NBHOT CN  
Fax: (0574) 366301  
Opened 26 May 1983  
116 rooms and suites

Located 12 km from airport, 550 m from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference room, business centre, multi-function hall, bar, beauty salon, ballroom, karaoke, massage, disco, shopping arcade

### Golden Dragon Hotel

金龍飯店



Nanzhan (Southern Railway Station) Square, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010

Tel: (0574) 318888  
Fax: (0574) 312288  
Opened 24 October 1991  
304 rooms and suites  
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Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, revolving restaurant, meeting rooms, bar, multi-function hall, ballroom, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, coffee shop, karaoke, swimming pool

### Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑飯店



130 Liuting Street, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010  
Tel: (0574) 7363175 Telex: 37001 NPHCM CN  
Fax: (0574) 364790

130 rooms

Located in the city centre

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, meeting rooms, business centre, disco, bar, billiards, shopping arcade, beauty salon



### Yonggang Hotel

南港飯店



105 Baizhang Road East, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315040

Tel: 7334621 Fax: (0574) 333626

Opened 1982

184 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 5.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke, bar, billiard room, beauty salon, massage, clinic, coffee shop

### Korla, Xinjiang

#### Bostan Hotel

博斯騰賓館

Renmin Road West, Korla, Xinjiang 841000

Tel: (0996) 24103

GM: Gong Desheng

75 rooms and suites

Located 10 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Muslim restaurants, conference rooms, shopping arcade, dance hall, disco, karaoke,

### Urümqi, Xinjiang

#### Bogeda Hotel

博格達賓館

10 Guangming Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 223910 Fax: (0991) 215769

GM: Li Chenglin

270 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards

#### Friendship Hotel

友誼賓館

62 Yan'an Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001

Tel: (0991) 264220 Fax: (0991) 263573

GM: Aizezi • Maimaitili

149 rooms and suites

Located 27 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, gym, massage

#### Hongshan Hotel

紅山賓館

108 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 216018

GM: Cui Shouliang

Opened 1971

94 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, conference rooms, beauty salon, massage

#### Holiday Inn

新禧假日大酒店



168 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 218788 Fax: (0991) 217422

GM: Roland Steiner

Opened 8 May 1993

383 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

#### Islam Grand Hotel

伊斯蘭大酒店

22 Zhongshan Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 211017 Fax: (0991) 211513

GM: Zhao Shukun

77 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon

#### Kunlun Hotel

崑崙賓館

51 Youhao Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000

Tel: (0991) 440411 Fax: (0991) 440213

GM: An Jinming

Opened 1959

397 rooms and suites

Located 16 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, baby sitting

#### Laiyuan Hotel

徠遠賓館

3 Jianshe Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000

Tel: (0991) 228368 Fax: (0991) 225109

GM: Wang Baoguo

68 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, coffee shop, bar,

conference rooms, dance hall, shopping arcade, exhibition hall, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, massage, gym

### Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑賓館



51 Xinhua Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001

Tel: (0991) 260793 Fax: (0991) 260622

GM: Song Qiwei

East Building opened September 1955, South Building September 1985

295 rooms and suites

Located 22 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, massage

### Xinjiang Electric Power Guest House

新疆電力賓館



57 Minzhu Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 222911 Fax: (0991) 226031

GM: Yao Haikuo

85 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurant, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon

### Xinjiang Sports Hotel

新疆體育賓館

3 Renmin Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 227962 Fax: (0991) 228074

GM: Ubulhasan

134 rooms and suites

Located 26 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, bar, conference rooms, clinic, tennis courts, baby sitting business centre





# BUSINESS TIPS

## EVENTS

### Recreation Facility in Tianjin

An entertainment centre specially designed for overseas business people has been built in the economic and technological development zone in this northern China port city of Tianjin.

The five-storey hall, claimed to be the largest multi-function recreation hall in North China, is equipped with meeting rooms, an indoor skating rink, a mini golf course and facilities for bowling, swimming, billiards and table tennis. It also has a dining hall providing both Chinese and Western-style food and a nightclub.

Previously overseas business people had to drive to the city district or even neighbouring Beijing for evening or weekend entertainment.

## MARKETING

### CITS Joins Air Transport Association

China International Travel Service (CITS), China's largest travel agency, will join more than 200 international travel agencies to become a member of International Air Transport Association (IATA). Already Air China, China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines are members. The majority of travel agencies worldwide already belong to IATA; CITS's membership means that China's tourist industry and air services are now linked to international agencies, ensuring greater impetus for the continued development of China's tourist trade.

### Tele-Market Opened in Shanghai

The Shanghai-based China Telecommunications Products Trading Centre, the first of its kind in China, opened recently in the Pudong Waigaoqiao Bonded Zone. The market was launched by the Shanghai Dongfang Telecommunications Indus-

trial Trading Co Ltd, which is a joint venture of all the country's local post and telecommunications administrative bureaux and some enterprises directly under the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT). The market will consist of five major centres.

### Trade Point Centre in Beijing

Beijing plans to open a foreign trade service centre early next year. Trade Point (TP) is a network set up at the United Nations Trade and Development Conference in 1992 which aims to simplify trading procedures, raise efficiency and lower costs. A Shanghai centre opened in September last year.

The centre plans to offer advice to managers unfamiliar with foreign trade. It will arrange co-operation among the customs, commodities inspection departments, banks, insurance firms, international transport services and groups promoting foreign trade including chambers of commerce. By the start of this year, 50 trade points were in place around the world and it is expected that an additional 100 global TP Centres will be built by the end of this year.

### Chinaplas to Open in Beijing

Also open in Beijing will be the 10th international exhibition on plastics and rubber industries, which is to be held in March 19-23 next year. Plastics and rubber companies, as well as processing machinery companies from China, Europe, Japan and the United States will display products. China's output of plastic products is estimated to reach 8 million tons by 2000, which will make the country the fourth largest producer of plastic products in the world.

## BANKING AND FINANCE

### French Insurer to Open Shanghai Office

Awaiting approval from the People's Bank of China, French underwriter Assurances Generales de France (AGF) will soon open an office in Shanghai.

It is believed that the Chinese market holds the biggest potential for world insurers. Companies from the United States and Japan have already started business

in Shanghai. Executives from major French insurance companies have made contact with Shanghai's financial and insurance institutions and made suggestions for the development of the Chinese insurance industry.

### China's First World Investment Bank

China's first international investment bank, China International Capital Corporation Limited (CICC), was officially launched in Beijing in August. Its establishment, with an initial capital of US \$100 million, is one important experiment in the course of the standardisation of China's capital market. People's Construction Bank of China (PCBC), one of the four leading State-owned specialised banks in China, is the major investor of the company holding 42.5 per cent.

CICC will play an important part in the development of China's capital market as a model for development of the investment banking industry in the country through introducing the management expertise of international banks. The company also will help raise more funds for the development of infrastructure and basic industries in China and create a more standardised and internationalised investment market for Chinese and overseas investors. The company will also participate in China's securities market, trade in foreign exchange, and make direct investments in China with its own capital.

### Unlimited Bank Branches in Beijing

The first group of five overseas banks have been given approval to establish branches in Beijing. The Bank of Tokyo became the first to open a branch in the Chinese capital in mid July, followed by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in early August.

China does not intend to impose any ceiling on the number of overseas bank branches in Beijing, approval will depend on the actual conditions of the banks and the supervisory ability of the People's Bank of China's (PBC) Beijing branch. Currently 23 Chinese cities are open to overseas financial institutions and, to date, 129 operational financial agencies.

Latest PBC statistics show that the 113 overseas banks and branches that had officially opened for business by the end of June have combined assets valued at US \$14.51 billion.



# Biking Through Banna

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY MICHAEL WOODHEAD

On the 40-minute flight from Kunming to Jinghong I watched a tropical storm raging in the distance, where a carpet of low moonlit cloud flashed with lightning within like Satan's circus. We then began the descent into the black humid night in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province.

It was midnight when we landed at Jinghong Airport and the darkness was thick and sweetly scented. Xishuangbanna felt like a different country after the clear spring days of Kunming. The buildings could have come from Thailand or Bali: ornate triangular pagoda roofs with murals of peacocks and elephants. Palm trees swayed in the warm night breeze and large mosquitoes caressed my face.

The first Dai minority women I saw were those waiting inside the arrivals hall: small with dark-skinned faces blushed with powder and rouge, they wore collarless pink tunics and flowery sarongs with silver chains around impossibly thin waists. The Dai women looked dainty and summery in their straw hats.

I was taken aback by the friendly, easy-going attitude I encountered when I searched for a ride to my hotel. "Just hop in, we'll give you a lift," said a tour bus driver and after an unhurried wait he drove me through the deserted centre of the tropical village to a cluster of riverside buildings, the Banna Hotel.

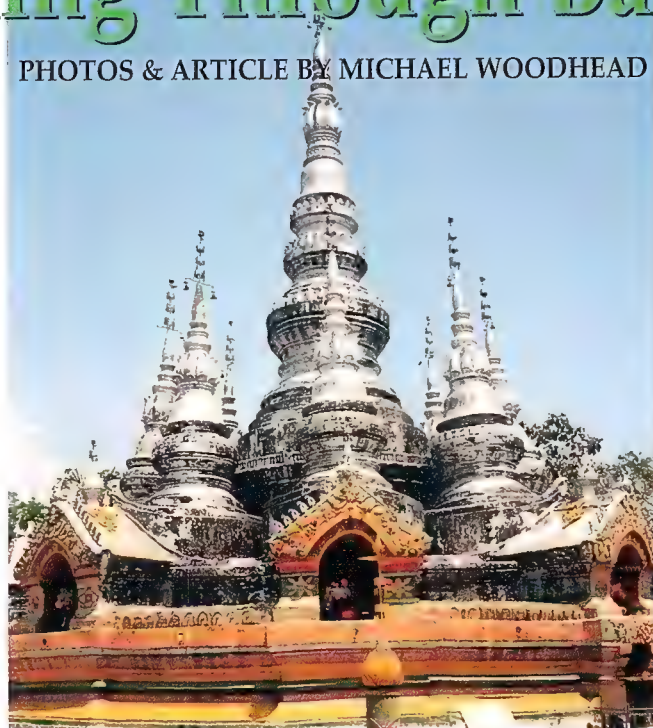
## First Sight

At first sight the next morning, Jinghong was like a little Saigon. The streets were wide and lined with palm trees, the architecture tropical colonial. The Mekong River flowed slow and brown past the hotel and the town centre had a small lake and gardens.

The local Dai people were languid and cheerful. They wore conical straw hats and rode around town on the back of tricycle taxis, chatting and smiling in the mid-morning heat.

Yet behind this facade of sarongs and elephant statues this was also a Chinese town. The stores bulged with the same merchandise I had seen in Kunming, and it was as much Canto-pop as Thai music that boomed from the boutiques and hair-dressing salons.

Jinghong prospered on border trade and tourism. There were black Mercedes cruising the streets and shiny four-wheel drive jeeps up from Thailand parked in the shade. Open-fronted tour agencies offered trips to places like the Bamboo Shoots Pagoda, the Banyan



Tree That Looks Like an Elephant, Laos frontier market, Stockaded Village of Hani Maidens and the Burmese border post of Daluo.

The recent opening of Jinghong's modern airport had made Xishuangbanna the exotic tropical playground of China, accessible to honeymooners from Beijing and factory groups from Chengdu.

I wanted to visit the Burmese border, but not by bus, so I hired a bike. Cycling, I found, was the best way to get around Jinghong. It was cool and quick, better than tramping the hot and dusty streets, and it allowed me to observe the local people close up without being stared at or pestered.

People smiled at me as I pedalled up to the free market, a one-kilometre stretch of stalls that sold everything from flyblown meat to Vietnamese pith helmets. I bought some accessories for my new bike and was ready to pedal to Burma.

That evening, sitting in Chuchu's Cafe on Jinghong's main street I sipped a banana milk shake in the cool dusk and looked at my maps. My route would take me 80 kilometres south to Damenglong, near the Burmese border – to the Golden Triangle!

To finish off the day I strolled down Manting Road, which was lined with Dai restaurants. At the front gate of these ornate buildings were troupes of Dai performers dressed in bright ethnic clothes wearing heavy make-up, waiting to perform and entice customers into their little palaces.

## On the Road

My laziness meant a late start the next day, but it took me only 10 minutes to cycle out of Jinghong on to a undulating road that passed through paddy fields sprouting emerald green rice stalks. By mid-morning there was already a warm breeze and I soon had to stop for the first of many roadside drinks of lychee juice or coconut milk.

The road branched south and passed through a cluster of Dai hamlets comprised of wooden houses perched on stilts made from tree trunks or bricks. Dai houses had high sloping roofs with double-layered eaves, leaving a gap for ventilation. The open ground floor around the stilts was for animals or storing food. The first floor was the living area.

Most houses were open to the road and I could see Dai girls showering behind screens, or mothers squatting, preparing food.

Apart from an occasional truck or tractor there was little other traffic on the road; it was an 80-kilometre dead end, tailing off amid the low jungle hills of the Burmese border.

The landscape was a patchwork of wet rice fields interspersed with lines of rubber trees dripping white sap into small pots. Animals were everywhere; pot-bellied sows followed by a clutch of piglets snuffling in the roadside dust, scrawny chickens scavenging through rubbish, herds of ducks guided by a farmer from one pond to the next, water buffalo tethered in muddy pools, and lizards scurrying off into the undergrowth.

On my bicycle I could freewheel down the quiet avenue, passing through several kilometres of rubber groves without seeing any one. It was peaceful, just the sound of birds and the wind, I was happy.





After an hour I saw my first young Buddhist monks: mischievous 10-year-olds with shaved heads, wrapped in saffron robes. They loitered about on the roadside and rode around on old bicycles that were too big for them.

People were surprised to see me. The young monks would nudge each other and shout "Hello!" Little Dai girls in flowered sarongs could clasp their powdered faces in shock and run away, scared by the sight of a foreigner.

The Damenglong Road stayed level and cool under the shelter of the trees and by late afternoon I was halfway to the Burmese border. I was feeling tired so I stopped for the evening at a hot springs resort beyond the town of East Wind (Dong Feng).



3

## End of the Line

Before I set off the next day I explored some white stupas I had seen on top of the jungle. It was spooky to walk alone among the prayer flags in the cool morning, so I soon hurried down to chat to some young monks outside the local Buddhist temple school.

They told me they attended the temple school from the age of seven to 13, where they learnt the Dai language and studied Buddhist texts as well as conventional lessons.

Two hours down the road just outside Damenglong, I climbed 100 steps in the sweltering heat up to the Bamboo Shoots Pagoda. This was one of Xishuangbanna's most famous tourist spots, but the day I visited the 300-year-old silver stupa it was deserted. I sat in the shade, listening to the windchimes and looked out across the river plain that marked the Sino-Burmese border and wondered where everyone was.

Damenglong was the end of the line, a dusty market town of hill tribes in ethnic costume. I found a pleasant guesthouse and took a siesta on the second floor veranda, gazing out at the distant Burmese hills.

When I awoke it was dark and I followed the sound of drums, cymbals and whooping noises to a piece of waste ground where Dai girls were practising their wrist-twisting dances in a circle around a pole topped by a single light bulb. They were rehearsing for the forthcoming water-splashing festival, to celebrate the Dai New Year.

I watched for a long time, mesmerized by the beauty of the tropical evening, before retiring to a room I shared with geckoes.

## To the Burmese Border

The next morning I went to the local market, to catch some of the shy Dai women on film. But even with my telephoto lens it wasn't easy. They seemed to have a sixth sense and always turned away before I could get a good picture.

In the end I gave up and went to see another stupa on a hill above town. The temple walls were covered with colourful murals telling the story of Buddha, who was shown squatting in yellow robes. The mural showed processions of tigers and ancient Siamese soldiers escorting princesses riding on elephants, sheltered by tasseled parasols. The temple also had an imprint of Buddha's footprint – a metre-long impression in yellow plaster with five shapeless toes.

The Burmese border was an hour's bike ride away at the foot of some low hills. I reached a village where New Year festivities were in full swing around a newly-built temple. Groups of young men sat outside on rattan mats, sipping fire water and nibbling special dishes from wicker trays.

Inside the gloom of the temple women, children and old men prostrated themselves in prayer. They chanted in unison with a lama squatting lotus-position among a forest of paper prayer trees, which were festooned with banknotes of Chinese renminbi, Thai baht and Burmese kyats.

Outside again, I was beckoned by a party of young lads, sat under a bush eating bony chicken and toasting each other with fire water. They gave me sticky purple rice wrapped in palm leaves and globs of sweet brown paste to eat.

Firecrackers exploded as we chatted, raising a cheer each time. Nearby, groups of people gathered around squares of cloth marked out with numbered squares and placed bets using different coloured stones. Then processions of more prayer trees arrived from nearby villages, escorted by men wearing white trilbies and calico shirts.

"This festival lasts three days," a young man told me. "Today we eat, drink and pray.

Tomorrow we have dancing and games and on the third day we have water-splashing!"

Later when I got up to leave, the young Dai men protested and insisted that I go to their house for dinner. Why not? I thought.

Their house was made from ill-fitting planks of wood where sunlight streamed through the gaps. Inside it was dark, and sparsely furnished, just a few baskets, tools, a black and white TV and a radio.

We sat together, men only, in a circle on a rattan mat. The women were elsewhere preparing dinner. When the dishes arrived, my hosts apologized profusely saying they were only poor farmers and could not offer much. But the meal was a spicy banquet of chicken and fish.

The young man's father sat beside me, a tiny man, bony as a sparrow, wearing a blue vest. He scooped up some of the rice into his fingers and rolled it up into a ball before eating it. Only the men eat together, he told me, the women would eat the left-overs.

Back at the temple at twilight, young Dai women in pink and blue sarongs were circling in a graceful stroll around a pole. They wore large golden earrings and wore red flowers in their hair. They twisted their elegant necks and wrists to the sound of crashing cymbals and the crowd whooped them on.

Around the other side of the temple, mischievous young monks scampered up a bamboo scaffolding tower, ready to light the fuse of a 10-foot-long home-made rocket made from bamboo poles and fluted pipes attached to the warhead. It made an eerie wail when it phutted up in a 20-metre arc, and plopped back down into the paddy fields.

This was the end of my day and the end of my Burma road. I cycled back to Damenglong as the sun set, intrigued by the slow and gentle life I had discovered in Xishuangbanna, unlike any other part of China.

1. At the Bamboo Shoots Pagoda, Manfeilong (near Damenglong)
2. The author on the road
3. Dai girls dancing at a temple near the Burmese border
4. Market scene, Damenglong



4



## A Tourist Guide to Hukou Waterfalls

### The Best Season to View the Waterfalls

During autumn from September to November the current of the Yellow River is comparatively rapid but the volume of the waterfall is steady. The weather is dry with some breeze. When the sun shines, a rainbow always appears over the waterfall. The golden leaf-fall surrounding is extremely attractive.

### Transportation

A daily shuttle bus between Taiyuan and Jixian County takes 10 to 12 hours to complete the journey. Casual travellers can go by train from Taiyuan to Linfen Station then change to a bus to Jixian County. Or take a Linfen-Yan'an bus and alight at the Hukou Hotel.

### Sightseeing

You can join tours recommended by Shanxi International Travel Service or Linfen International Travel Service such as Tour of Shanxi, Tour of Yellow River Loess Plateau and Shanxi-Shaanxi Valley Customs Tour, all these routes pass by the Hukou Waterfalls.

### Accommodation and Food

Within the Hukou Scenic Area there are the Hukou Hotel, a three-star rated hotel; Jizhou Hotel is a State-owned hotel located in the Jixian County; or you can stay at Linfen Hotel, a two star-rated hotel within Linfen City.

The above-mentioned hotels will offer you delicious traditional dishes such as noodles, the famous "Huanghe River Carp Banquet" and other specialties.

### Room Rates

| Hotel Name | Standard<br>Double Room (US\$) |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Hukou      | 28                             |
| Jizhou     | 22-25                          |
| Linfen     | 32-35                          |

### Taiyuan - Hukou Tourist Itinerary

**First Day:** Visit Jin Ancestral Hall in the morning and Pingyao in the afternoon, either place can be reached by tourist coach starting from railway station square. Then by bus from Pingyao to Linfen and stay one night at the Linfen Hotel.

**Second Day:** Visit Yao Temple, Iron Buddha Temple in Linfen City, Guangsheng Temple, Dahuaishu, Su San's Jail in Hongdong County and Dingcun Village Folk Culture Museum in Xiangfen County.

**Third Day:** Visit Dongyue Temple in Puxian County, Xiaoxitian in Xixian County and go to Jixian County before dark, and stay at Jizhou Hotel.

**Fourth Day:** Visit Hukou Waterfalls in the morning and cross the river by bus in the afternoon to Yan'an then Xi'an in Shaanxi Province. Alternatively spend one more afternoon in Hukou Waterfalls and check out on the fifth day from Hukou Hotel.

**Remarks:** It takes 2 ½ - 3 days for a special tour to Hukou Waterfalls from Taiyuan.

### Location of Hukou Waterfalls



### Average Climatic Conditions in Shanxi

|        |         |                  | Jan.  | Feb. | Mar. | April | May  | June | July  | Aug.  | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|--------|---------|------------------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| Shanxi | Taiyuan | Temperature (°C) | -6.6  | -3.1 | 3.7  | 11.4  | 17.7 | 21.7 | 23.5  | 21.8  | 16.1  | 9.9  | 2.1  | -4.9 |
|        |         | Rainfall (mm)    | 3.0   | 6.0  | 16.3 | 23.8  | 30.1 | 52.6 | 118.3 | 103.6 | 64.3  | 30.8 | 13.2 | 3.4  |
|        | Datong  | Temperature (°C) | -11.3 | -7.7 | -0.1 | 8.3   | 15.4 | 19.9 | 21.8  | 20.1  | 14.3  | 7.5  | -1.4 | -8.9 |
|        |         | Rainfall (mm)    | 3.0   | 3.9  | 9.9  | 19.3  | 29.1 | 45.1 | 95.1  | 94.1  | 51.2  | 23.7 | 8.1  | 1.5  |



# Famous Waterfalls in China

## Huangguoshu Waterfalls

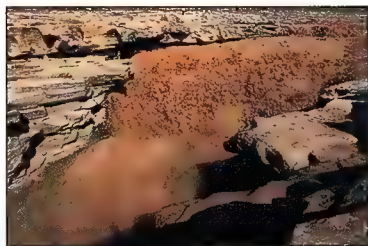
Located on the Baishui River 15 kilometres southwest of Zhenning Bouyei and Miao Autonomous County in Guizhou Province, Huangguoshu is the most famous waterfall in China, and also one of the largest karst waterfalls in the world. Composed of 18 cascades above ground and four falls underground this group of waterfalls is noted for its great volume and torrents. The top cascade is over 60 metres in height and 30-40 metres in width. Its huge water curtain plunges from the cliff into the pool below named Xiniu (Rhinoceros), emitting a thunderous roar. In summer and autumn when the discharge increases, the spray of the falls produces clouds of mist which waft through the air giving one a cool, refreshing feeling. Opposite the waterfalls is a pavilion providing a panoramic view of the torrential falls. To one side is the Water Curtain Cave; the view from inside is thrilling.



## Hukou Waterfalls

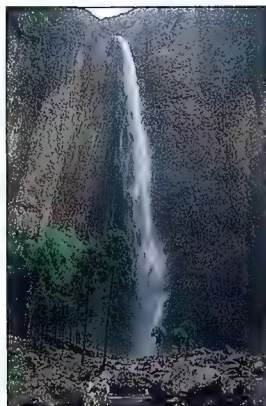
The Hukou Waterfalls, located at Hukou (Kettle Spout) of the Yellow River in Jixian County, Shanxi Province, rank second largest in China. It is said that the waterfalls were formed when the legendary figure Yu of ancient times hewed the river's course with an axe to harness the Yellow River. The Yellow River, 250 metres in width, flows past the uneven stone gorge in this region and empties into a naturally round stone pot with a diameter of 50 metres and forms columnar cascades, just like a huge kettle pouring out water from its spout onto the ground.

Usually the width of the falls is 30 metres but can reach up to 50 metres during high-water seasons with a drop of more than 20 metres. The sound it produces can be heard from five kilometres away. During the rainy season, the spray bounds up several metres high in clouds of mist. On fine days, reflected in sunlight the mist creates many beautiful rainbows.



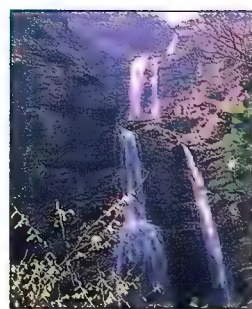
## Dalongqiu Waterfall

Reputedly the crown of the 18 Yandang Waterfalls, the Dalongqiu Waterfall located three kilometres west of Northern Yandang Mountain's Ma'an Ridge in Leqing County, Zhejiang Province is famous throughout China for its high and long flow. From a precipice 190 metres high the fall pours down as if from the sky into a deep pool, creating a misty world below. During the dry season the fall looks like a white chain enshrouded in a bamboo grove, and during the rainy season it tumbles down the cliff resembling a falling white dragon surrounded by clouds of mist. Travellers usually like to ascend the Yanzuo Peak where they have the clearest view of the waterfall.



## Sandiequan Waterfall

With a drop of up to 300 metres the Sandiequan (Three Tier Spring) Waterfall, sandwiched between the fifth peak of the Wulao (Five Old Men) Peak and Tiebi (Iron Wall) Peak southeast of Mount Lushan in Jiangxi Province, takes its source from Mount Dayue and gushes down the valley in three tiers. The scenery of the fall varies from season to season. In the rainy season from late spring to early summer the fall rushes down like an enraged dragon, while in mid-summer and winter when it rains sparsely, the water curtain flows gently down like a bolt of silk. One can overlook the fall from Mount Jiudieping (Nine Fold Screen), but the most majestic sight is viewed from the bottom of the fall where the water looks like it is pelting down from a breach in the sky.



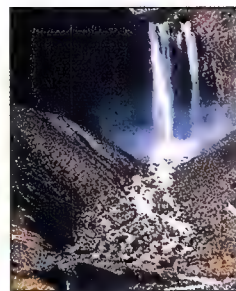
## Dadieshui Waterfall

The most magnificent waterfall in Yunnan Province, the Dadieshui lies on the Bajiang River 15 kilometres southwest of the seat of Lunan Yi Autonomous County. Pouring down from the 90-metre-high rock, the fall is 20 metres wide. The water plunging into the pool below emits a thundering roar which can be heard several kilometres away. In the dry season the fall looks like a white chain veiled by a pearl curtain, while in the rainy season the spray it produces becomes drizzle wafting over the fields on the mountain.



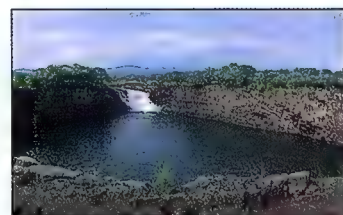
## Changbai Waterfall

From its fountainhead of Lake Tianchi on the Changbai Mountains in Jilin Province, the Changbai River flows for 1,250 kilometres before dropping 68 metres in this giant cascade, spreading down between the so-called Jade Cliff and Gold Wall like a bolt of white brocade. The water then joins the Erdao Baihe River to become the waterhead of the Songhua River.



## Diaoshuilou Waterfall

Located at the spot where the Jingbo lake water empties into the Mudan River, three kilometres from the Jingbo Mountain Villa at the southern end of Jingbo Lake in Heilongjiang Province, the Diaoshuilou Waterfall is 40 metres wide and has a drop of 20 metres into a round, deep plunge pool. During the rainy season the fall splits into two or more cascades and the breadth becomes more than 200 metres. Standing on the top of the fall one can see the clear lake water flowing slowly past and the rocks at the bottom are clearly discernible.



Translated by K.V. Ku





## Flights to and from Taiyuan

| Route               | Days of Week  | Dep.  | Arr.  | Flight No. |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Beijing — Taiyuan   | 4             | 12:45 | 14:15 | WH2132     |
|                     | 2             | 14:30 | 15:10 | CA1711     |
|                     | 1 3 4 5 7     | 20:40 | 21:30 | GP7102     |
|                     | 5             | 21:10 | 22:10 | GP7108     |
|                     | 2 6           | 21:30 | 22:30 | GP7104     |
|                     | 1             | 21:30 | 22:30 | GP7106     |
| Taiyuan — Beijing   | 2 6           | 07:25 | 08:20 | GP7103     |
|                     | 1 3 4 5 7     | 07:30 | 08:30 | GP7101     |
|                     | 1             | 07:45 | 08:40 | GP7105     |
|                     | 4             | 10:30 | 11:55 | WH2131     |
|                     | 5             | 13:20 | 14:15 | GP7107     |
|                     | 2             | 22:40 | 23:20 | CA1712     |
| Changsha — Taiyuan  | 4             | 20:30 | 22:10 | GP7366     |
| Taiyuan — Changsha  | 4             | 12:40 | 14:20 | GP7365     |
| Changzhou — Taiyuan | 2             | 13:10 | 15:00 | GP7521     |
| Taiyuan — Changzhou | 2             | 15:50 | 17:40 | GP7522     |
| Chengdu — Taiyuan   | 5             | 10:20 | 12:20 | GP7412     |
|                     | 3             | 11:00 | 13:10 | GP7417     |
|                     | 2             | 16:10 | 18:00 | GP7402     |
| Taiyuan — Chengdu   | 5             | 07:30 | 09:30 | GP7411     |
|                     | 2             | 13:15 | 15:15 | GP7401     |
|                     | 3             | 14:10 | 16:10 | GP7418     |
| Chongqing — Taiyuan | 6             | 13:30 | 17:30 | GP7404     |
| Taiyuan — Chongqing | 6             | 08:20 | 12:30 | GP7403     |
| Dalian — Taiyuan    | 1 4           | 12:30 | 15:30 | GP7604     |
| Taiyuan — Dalian    | 1 4           | 08:10 | 11:25 | GP7603     |
| Fuzhou — Taiyuan    | 3             | 18:00 | 22:00 | GP7506     |
| Taiyuan — Fuzhou    | 3             | 13:00 | 17:10 | GP7505     |
| Guangzhou — Taiyuan | 3 6           | 10:55 | 13:05 | WH2372     |
|                     | 2 5 7         | 14:00 | 16:20 | CZ3701     |
|                     | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 16:55 | 19:40 | GP7304     |
| Taiyuan — Guangzhou | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 07:15 | 09:55 | GP7303     |
|                     | 3 6           | 14:15 | 16:45 | WH2371     |
|                     | 2 5 7         | 17:10 | 19:30 | CZ3702     |
| Haikou — Taiyuan    | 4             | 17:50 | 22:10 | GP7366     |
| Taiyuan — Haikou    | 4             | 12:40 | 16:50 | GP7365     |
| Hangzhou — Taiyuan  | 5             | 19:45 | 21:55 | GP7508     |
| Taiyuan — Hangzhou  | 5             | 07:10 | 09:20 | GP7507     |

| Route               | Days of Week | Dep.           | Arr.           | Flight No.       |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Nanjing — Taiyuan   | 3 7          | 20:20<br>20:20 | 22:00<br>22:00 | GP7506<br>GP7510 |
| Taiyuan — Nanjing   | 3 7          | 07:50<br>13:00 | 09:25<br>14:40 | GP7509<br>GP7505 |
| Shanghai — Taiyuan  | 3 4          | 09:55          | 12:00          | GP7502           |
|                     | 2            | 10:00          | 12:00          | GP7502           |
|                     | 7            | 10:30          | 12:35          | GP7569           |
|                     | 1 5 6        | 11:55<br>15:25 | 13:45<br>17:25 | WH2572<br>GP7514 |
| Taiyuan — Shanghai  | 2 3 4        | 07:10<br>07:40 | 09:10<br>09:35 | GP7501<br>GP7513 |
|                     | 6 7          | 13:30          | 15:25          | GP7570           |
|                     | 1 5          | 14:45          | 16:20          | WH2571           |
| Shenyang — Taiyuan  | 2 5          | 13:10          | 17:10          | GP7602           |
| Taiyuan — Shenyang  | 2 5          | 08:20          | 12:10          | GP7601           |
| Shenzhen — Taiyuan  | 1            | 16:40          | 19:20          | GP7306           |
|                     | 4            | 17:50          | 20:30          | GP7308           |
| Taiyuan — Shenzhen  | 1            | 08:20          | 11:15          | GP7305           |
|                     | 4            | 08:20          | 11:15          | GP7307           |
| Tianjin — Taiyuan   | 1 4          | 14:15          | 15:30          | GP7604           |
|                     | 2 5          | 15:50          | 17:10          | GP7602           |
| Taiyuan — Tianjin   | 1 4          | 08:10          | 09:30          | GP7603           |
|                     | 2 5          | 08:20          | 09:40          | GP7601           |
| Wenzhou — Taiyuan   | 2            | 11:25          | 15:00          | GP7521           |
|                     | 7            | 17:40          | 22:00          | GP7510           |
| Taiyuan — Wenzhou   | 2 7          | 07:50<br>15:50 | 11:45<br>19:30 | GP7509<br>GP7522 |
| Wuhan — Taiyuan     | 3            | 17:20          | 20:40          | GP7302           |
| Taiyuan — Wuhan     | 3            | 08:20          | 11:35          | GP7301           |
| Xiamen — Taiyuan    | 5            | 17:20          | 21:55          | GP7508           |
| Taiyuan — Xiamen    | 5            | 07:10          | 11:25          | GP7507           |
| Xi'an — Taiyuan     | 7            | 10:55          | 12:20          | GP7203           |
|                     | 6            | 16:10          | 17:30          | GP7404           |
| Taiyuan — Xi'an     | 6            | 08:20          | 09:45          | GP7403           |
|                     | 7            | 13:20          | 14:45          | GP7204           |
| Yan'an — Taiyuan    | 4            | 09:00          | 09:50          | WH2131           |
| Taiyuan — Yan'an    | 4            | 14:55          | 15:50          | WH2132           |
| Zhengzhou — Taiyuan | 3            | 19:35          | 20:40          | GP7302           |
| Taiyuan — Zhengzhou | 3            | 08:20          | 09:20          | GP7301           |

(Valid to October 28, 1995)



## Average Climatic Conditions in Beijing, Shanghai, Xinjiang and Zhejiang

|                      |                  | Jan.  | Feb. | Mar.  | April | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|----------------------|------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| Beijing              | Temperature (°C) | -4.6  | -2.2 | 4.5   | 13.1  | 19.8  | 24.0  | 25.8  | 24.4  | 19.4  | 12.4 | 4.1  | -2.7 |
|                      | Rainfall (mm)    | 3.0   | 7.4  | 8.6   | 19.4  | 33.1  | 77.8  | 192.5 | 212.3 | 57.0  | 24.0 | 6.6  | 2.6  |
| Shanghai             | Temperature (°C) | 3.5   | 4.6  | 8.3   | 14.0  | 18.8  | 23.3  | 27.8  | 27.7  | 23.6  | 18.0 | 12.3 | 6.2  |
|                      | Rainfall (mm)    | 44.0  | 62.6 | 78.1  | 106.7 | 122.9 | 158.9 | 134.2 | 126.0 | 150.5 | 50.1 | 48.8 | 40.9 |
| Xinjiang<br>Urümqi   | Temperature (°C) | -10.7 | -7.7 | -0.4  | 8.4   | 14.9  | 19.2  | 20.9  | 19.9  | 14.2  | 6.3  | -2.1 | -8.3 |
|                      | Rainfall (mm)    | 0.9   | 0.9  | 1.2   | 1.3   | 3.7   | 17.1  | 18.5  | 11.8  | 7.2   | 0.6  | 0.4  | 1.0  |
| Zhejiang<br>Hangzhou | Temperature (°C) | 3.8   | 5.1  | 9.3   | 15.4  | 20.2  | 24.3  | 28.6  | 28.0  | 23.3  | 17.7 | 12.1 | 6.3  |
|                      | Rainfall (mm)    | 62.2  | 88.7 | 114.1 | 130.4 | 179.9 | 196.2 | 126.5 | 136.5 | 177.6 | 77.9 | 54.7 | 54   |

### Train Schedules Taiyuan – Xi'an – Chengdu

| 235<br>F.T. | 185<br>F.T. | Train<br>Station | No. | 186<br>F.T. | 236<br>F.T. |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|
| 16:41       | 13:09       | Taiyuan          |     | 05:05       | 11:10       |
| 19:14       | 15:28       | Jiexiu           |     | 02:54       | 08:45       |
| 21:45       | 17:52       | Linfen           |     | 00:25       | 06:06       |
| 00:28       | 20:36       | Yuncheng         |     | 21:57       | 03:38       |
| 02:15       | 22:16       | Fenglingdu       |     | 20:14       | 01:47       |
| 03:20       | 23:06       | Mengguan         |     | 19:41       | 01:00       |
| 04:35       | 00:06       | Weinan           |     | 18:19       | 23:31       |
| 05:50       | 01:09       | Xi'an            |     | 17:15       | 22:30       |
| 06:38       | 01:39       | Xianyang         |     | 16:39       | 21:32       |
| 09:18       | 04:25       | Baoji            |     | 14:19       | 18:35       |
|             | 06:49       | Fengzhou         |     | 12:03       |             |
|             | 12:47       | Guangyuan        |     | 05:25       |             |
|             | 18:30       | Deyang           |     | 23:55       |             |
|             | 19:36       | Chengdu          |     | 22:50       |             |

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

### Train Schedules Xi'an – Lanzhou – Urümqi – Korla

| 243<br>F.T. | 143<br>F.T. | Train<br>Station | No. | 144<br>F.T. | 244<br>F.T. |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|
|             | 21:40       | Xi'an            |     | 09:36       |             |
|             | 22:12       | Xianyang         |     | 09:12       |             |
|             | 01:03       | Baoji            |     | 06:05       |             |
|             | 04:30       | Tianshui         |     | 01:17       |             |
|             | 08:22       | Longxi           |     | 22:05       |             |
| 11:35       | 13:16       | Lanzhou          |     | 17:36       | 16:23       |
| 14:13       | 15:56       | Yongdeng         |     | 15:13       | 13:39       |
| 16:54       | 18:19       | Tianzhu          |     | 12:42       | 11:08       |
| 19:34       | 21:10       | Wuwei            |     | 09:58       | 08:03       |
| 01:30       | 03:10       | Zhangye          |     | 04:38       | 02:43       |
| 02:47       | 04:27       | Gaotai           |     | 02:37       | 00:42       |
| 06:25       | 08:02       | Jiayuguan        |     | 23:04       | 21:07       |
| 09:54       | 11:22       | Shulehe          |     | 18:53       | 16:47       |
| 13:08       | 14:27       | Liuyuan          |     | 16:02       | 13:51       |
| 15:52       | 17:20       | Weiya            |     | 12:54       | 11:00       |
| 17:20       | 18:40       | Yandun           |     | 11:03       | 09:03       |
| 18:55       | 20:26       | Hami             |     | 09:44       | 07:35       |
| 00:23       | 01:59       | Shanshan         |     | 04:26       | 01:22       |
| 03:44       | 05:22       | Turpan           |     | 01:24       | 22:07       |
| 07:19       | —           | Urümqi           |     | —           | 18:26       |
|             | 12:30       | Balguntay        |     | 17:51       |             |
|             | 14:03       | Hejing           |     | 16:32       |             |
|             | 15:44       | Korla            |     | 14:25       |             |

### Train Schedules Shanghai – Hangzhou – Qiandaohu

| 567<br>O. | 559<br>O. | 451<br>O. | Train<br>Station | No. | 452<br>O. | 568<br>O. |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|
|           |           | 05:50     | Shanghai         |     | 20:22     |           |
|           |           | 07:53     | Songjiang        |     | 18:16     |           |
|           |           | 10:51     | Qixingqiao       |     | 17:07     |           |
|           |           | 12:44     | Xieqiao          |     | 15:34     |           |
|           | 09:56     | 14:20     | Hangzhou         |     | 14:01     |           |
|           | 11:58     |           | Meichi           |     | 11:48     |           |
|           | 14:04     |           | Anhua            |     | 10:06     |           |
|           | 16:06     |           | Yiting           |     | 08:17     |           |
| 08:20     | 17:50     |           | Jinhua           |     | 07:01     | 14:58     |
| 10:16     | 19:50     |           | Shouchang        |     | 05:02     | 13:15     |
| 11:36     | 20:05     |           | Qiandaohu        |     | 04:05     | 12:20     |

O. — Ordinary train

### Train Schedules Shanghai – Hangzhou – Guangzhou

| 209<br>F.T. | 49<br>Exp. | Train<br>Station | No. | 50<br>Exp. | 210<br>F.T. |
|-------------|------------|------------------|-----|------------|-------------|
|             | 10:00      | Shanghai         |     | 20:30      |             |
| 09:20       | —          | Hangzhou         |     | —          | 20:21       |
| —           | 13:16      | Hangzhou East    |     | 17:28      | —           |
| 13:30       | 16:36      | Jinhua           |     | 14:07      | 15:35       |
| 20:55       | 22:12      | Yingtian         |     | 08:07      | 08:33       |
| 23:11       | 00:10      | Xiangtang West   |     | 06:05      | 05:30       |
| 04:55       | 04:31      | Pingxiang        |     | 01:34      | 00:11       |
| 07:14       | 06:20      | Zhuzhou          |     | 23:49      | 22:16       |
| 09:32       | 08:25      | Hengyang         |     | 21:40      | 19:55       |
| 15:10       | 13:36      | Shaoguan         |     | 16:29      | 14:20       |
| 18:55       | 16:46      | Guangzhou        |     | 13:06      | 10:20       |

Exp. — Express



## TOURIST INFORMATION

### Special Festival in Hainan

A leisure Tourism Festival will be inaugurated in Sanya, a beach city in Hainan Province, on January 1, 1996. From February to December 1996 a series of activities will be organized for tourists to taste delicious food, coconuts and other tropical fruits produced on the island and to celebrate International Tourism Day on September 27.

China's second-largest island and largest special economic zone, Hainan has made special efforts to upgrade its tourism infrastructure. The province plans to pump 8 billion yuan into renovations and the building of 108 projects by the end of 1995. An International Student Summer Camp and a Shopping Month will also be held during the Seventh Hainan Trade Fair.

The Golden Coast Hotel in this provincial capital and the Grand Oriental Hotel in Sanya have opened, while construction is finishing for Wanning Forest Garden, Jinling Holiday Village Leisure Park, Sunrise Golf Course and other tourist facilities.

### Minority Customs Tour

Three provinces and two autonomous regions in Southwest China are joining hands to build a new type of tourism network with the integration of local customs, cultures and natural landscapes. The network centres on the cities of Lhasa, Chongqing, Chengdu, Guiyang, Kunming, Guilin and Beihai.

Southwest China, including the provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan, and the Tibet and Guangxi Zhuang autonomous regions, is host to 26 ethnic minorities. Visitors are especially attracted by the dances of the Zhuang, the bamboo houses of the Dai and the Tibetan people's religion. The Three Gorges area, mountains and rivers in Guilin, the culture of western Sichuan and caves in Guizhou have attracted a large number of domestic and overseas tourists in recent years.

### Lhasa's Holiday Village

Lhasa, capital of Tibet Autonomous Region, has finished the construction of its first tourism and holiday village at Basum Lake earlier this year and is now open to tourists.

Basum Lake, 396 kilometres east of Lhasa, is located in Gongbo'gyamda County at an elevation of 2,300 metres and is a freshwater lake surrounded by virgin forests and rich wildlife. The village has 120 guest rooms, dining room, bar, nightclub and swimming pool as well as many other recreational facilities around the lake.

### New Museum in Tibet

Tibet has started work on a new 4.8-hectare museum costing US\$11.6 million. It is one of 62 aid-Tibet projects approved and already over 100,000 historical relics have been collected for the museum. Tibet has more than 1 million historical relics, some of which can be dated back to the Stone Age and most of which have never been put on public display.

### Water Park in Guangxi

The Golden Bay Waterland in Beihai opened to the public at the end of August in this port city in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Six kilometres from the down-town area the water park has 10 entertainment features such as water slides and can accommodate 1,500 visitors a day. Other entertainment and services such as restaurants are also being constructed and the park is to import hi-tech entertainment facilities from the United States.

### Huge Hebei Cliff is Largest Echo Wall

A huge curved cliff that can echo sounds has been found at Taihang Mountain near Shijiazhuang in Hebei Province.

Chinese geologists say that the cliff, 100 meters high, with a radius of 250 degrees and with a curve length of over 300 metres, is the largest natural echo wall ever found in the world. After close studies, experts say the cliff was formed 3 million years ago by a movement of the earth's crust, yet it did not become curved until some 200,000 years ago, owing to a long-lasting humid and rainy climate.

The wall was formed by water entering the crevices of the cliff which then iced up in winter enlarging the cracks into a regular curve. According to the experts, the cliff used to sit on clay, which was weathered

causing the cliff to fall perpendicularly and become almost vertical.

Moreover, the experts say the echo from the cliff is almost identical to the original sound because the surface of the cliff is so smooth and the sound transfers quickly.

### New Nanjing Sites

In line with a growing demand from local and overseas tourists Nanjing, the capital city of Jiangsu Province, will build a number of new scenic spots.

The administration department of the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum has built a large area of plum blossoms, a large garden of osmanthus, a bamboo sea, a wooden-house holiday zone and a cableway.

Also a Singapore company has made an investment of US\$10 million to help with the construction of a sea-life area between the Tomb of the First Emperor of the Ming Dynasty and the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum.

Also planned, at an investment of US\$1.8 million are a three-kilometre tourist railway line, an area reconstructing the scenes described in *A Dream of Red Mansions* (one of China's top four literature classics) and a labyrinth of plants.

## AIRLINE UPDATES

### New Air Routes in Hainan

Fenghuang (Phoenix) International Airport of Sanya City on the southern tip of Hainan Province will soon add eight new international air routes.

The routes will be to Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Bangkok, Malaysia, Tokyo, Osaka and Seoul; chartered flights to Oklahoma City in the United States are also available.

The airport is the only modern airport on the southern tip of Hainan Island and these new air routes will aid the development of the tourist business in this island province.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

### Tomb Discovered in Jiangsu

Fine bronzeware, pottery, jade and musical instruments dating back to the late Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) were



found recently in a tomb located at Xiaozhen Hill near Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, indicating that the buried man was of high-rank. Also unearthed was a damaged seal, the characters of which had not been identified until Cao Jinyan, a noted expert on ancient Chinese characters, was invited to help. The characters read Prime Minister and so experts concluded that the tomb belonged to Chun Shen of the State of Chu, one of the four most prominent gentlemen during the Warring States Period.

The tomb's discovery will contribute to the study of the history of Warring States Period and Suzhou local culture.

### Song-Dynasty Remains in Henan

In Sanmenxia City, Henan Province, archaeologists have unearthed 586 tombs with funeral urns from the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Working over two years they have found brick memorial tablets inscribed with the name, age, birth place, deeds and burial time of the dead. From these the experts learned that the buried came from a wide range of backgrounds in Song society, in-

cluding officials, soldiers, businessmen, workers and prisoners.

In Hebi City, archaeologists unearthed a Song tomb with a chronological record of events. Whilst in Dengfeng County another tomb of the same dynasty with frescoes has been found depicting human beings, celestial scenes, as well as flowers and animals painted in smooth lines and clear colours.

And, in Gongyi City, 13 brick kilns have been excavated; inside many bricks bearing inscriptions of "ding ling guan yao" (Dingling Imperial Kiln) and a tri-coloured pottery lantern and cups, glazed tiles and building ornaments were found.

Moreover, archaeologists have found the southern city wall of Bianliang, present Kaifeng City which was the capital of the Song and the site of the Song imperial garden - Jinmingchi.

### Xing Capital in Hebei

Xingtai of Hebei Province in North China was the 3,000-year-old capital of the Xing Kingdom and it possibly served as a political centre of the Shang Dynasty (16th-11th century B.C.), archaeologists proved

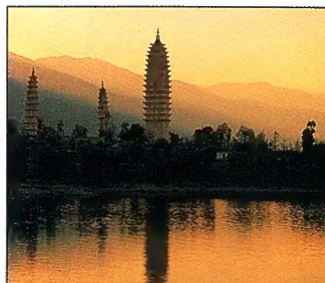
recently. This conclusion was drawn after excavating a number of relics and aristocrats' tombs dating back to the Western Zhou Dynasty (11th century-771 B.C.) at a 750 square-metre area northwest of the city in 1991.

Among the abundant findings of pottery, stone, bone and bronzewares and 11 characters which were found on a tortoise shell. This is the first time archaeologists have found such inscriptions on shells in Hebei Province following major findings in Shanxi, Beijing and Shaanxi decades ago. Moreover, 110 tombs of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770-221 B.C.) and five pits full of clay figurines of carriages and horses have been excavated west of the city. Further, the archaeologists found a mausoleum 55 metres long and 15 metres in depth, where more than 1,000 sacrificial items are buried ranging from bronze swords and spears to gold-coated clam shells and a variety of precious stones. Inscriptions on a bronze spear reveal that the tomb may belong to the kin of the Xing Kingdom of the early Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.).



### A Trip to Dali

In next month's issue we commemorate the 3,000 year-old history of China's golden city, Beijing, by bringing you an in-depth look at this city of extremes. In bygone days the city reverberated to the sound of bells and drums chanting the passing hours and Hutongs symbolized the unity of families. Today its inhabitants learn to come to terms with old traditions and modern influences.



### Beijing Turns Three Thousand

### A Lamaist Festival on Mount Wutai

Next we immerse ourselves in the dark side of Sichuan Province to explore the unsolved mysteries of the Sichuan Basin (known as the Valley of Death) - China's equivalent to the Bermuda Triangle. In an area the size of France, with scenery reminiscent of that created for the movie Jurassic Park, it is not only home to two species of giant panda but is eerily claimed to lie on the same latitude as the Pyramids of Egypt and the Bermuda Triangle. Equally mysterious is the Exorcism Dance performed by the Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhists during the first 15 days of the sixth lunar month on Mount Wutai in Shanxi Province. Thousands of on-lookers witness the "devil dance".

Lastly we move southwest to Dali and Lake Erhai in Yunnan Province, a beautiful land favoured by heaven and earth.



### A Hazardous Adventure into China's "Bermuda"



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